



30P

No. 65,466

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3 1996

Lotto fever

Roll up for the
£33 million roll-over
10,000 tickets
to be won

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Fast forward into 96

Fashion leaders
forecast the
must-have looks

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TOMMY

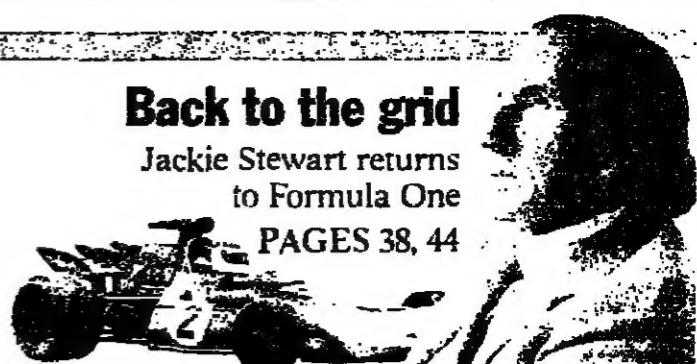
Critics'
choice
Guide to
the hottest
tickets

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Back to the grid

Jackie Stewart returns
to Formula One

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ANDREW BALZARINI AP

Million homes cut off for two nights

Inquiry into why water supply failed

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND KATE ALDERSON

WATER companies were ordered yesterday to explain why up to a million households were left without supplies for a second night.

With the Army on standby in the worst-hit areas of the North East and Scotland, people queued for up to an hour to fill bottles and buckets from emergency tankers and bowsers. Hospitals cancelled operations and many schools may not be able to start the new term on time next week.

Water officials admitted that there was a crisis with reservoirs in danger of drying up as millions of gallons drained away through fractured pipes and mains. One Scottish director urged companies not to reopen after the holiday today and appealed to people "to go dry".

Ofwat, the industry regulator, has written to all companies demanding an explanation of what has happened and telling them to look at how water authorities overseas manage their supplies. Customers are entitled to £10 for every day they are cut off, so the compensation bill could be huge. "They will not be able to pass on the cost of this to the customers. That is the bottom line," Ofwat said.

The companies have been widely criticised since privatisation for not doing enough to improve their infrastructure. But the present problems are, in part, due to a new pipe-laying programme. The severe frost and rapid thaw caused small mains pipes to twist and break as the ground first expanded and then suddenly

contracted. The plastic pipes that had recently replaced leaky cast iron ones proved more vulnerable because they had not bedded in, so the twisting effect of the "ground shift" was exaggerated.

But Canadian experts said that much of the damage could have been avoided had the pipes been laid 5 ft rather than 3 ft below the frost line.

The companies, however, defended their record saying they had teams in place all

over Christmas to try to minimise any problems for customers. Even so, they and Ofwat have been bombarded with complaints from people who were cut off without warning and about inadequate emergency supplies.

Tyneside and Wearside were worst affected, and 250,000 people had to take to the streets to collect their water. Ashington and Newbiggin in Northumberland were cut off for the second day running, forcing two hospitals to cancel operations and give patients bottled water to drink. Staff had to carry water to wards on upper floors because of a drop in pressure.

In Ashington, which has a population of about 27,000, the 550-gallon tanks offering emergency supplies were rapidly emptied and scuffles and arguments were reported over how much each person should take. Thomas Shall, 62, queued for an hour only to find the tank was empty. "I have no idea when the next tank will arrive and I'm furious," he said. "My water

was off for more than 24 hours and no one can tell me when it will be back on."

Northumbrian Water said that people should not expect supplies to return for at least 24 hours and urged them not to hoard water from the emergency tanks. A spokesman said that as soon as containers were emptied they were returned to the reservoir and refilled.

That did not satisfy a group of Labour MPs, however, who wrote to the Environment Secretary to demand a public inquiry into the shortfall.

In the Strathclyde region of Scotland, more than half a million homes suffered burst pipes and a fleet of eight large tankers and 200 smaller ones were used to deliver supplies.

Territorial Army tankers moved into parts of Scotland yesterday, but the help was limited and the three regions worst affected — Strathclyde, Lothian and Grampian — said

they had no plans to take up the Government's offer of full-scale military help.

Gus Ferguson, director of water in Lothian, appealed to big firms not to reopen today after Hogmanay as supplies to reservoirs from Loch Lomond were dangerously low. "They may start up, run for a day and find there is no water. Their reaction has not been very good — great displeasure might be the message."

Mr Ferguson also urged people to minimise demand at home: "Our message is 'Go dirty for a couple of days'."

Inspector Parker, who has

protected the heir to the throne for more than 12 years, later

had an emergency operation at Davos Hospital, eight miles

away, to insert a hip screw.

The Prince, who has been plagued by "the curse of Klosters" since his friend, Major Hugh Lindsay, a former equerry to the Queen, was killed in an avalanche at the resort in 1988, telephoned the injured officer's wife, Angela, in London to explain what had happened. He was said to be "deeply upset".

Inspector Parker, described as an accomplished skier, was the Prince's main skiing bodyguard. He was made a member of the Royal Victorian Order in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 1993.

Although other officers are

accompanying the party, which includes Prince William



The Prince of Wales with Prince William, right, and Prince Harry on the slopes above the resort of Klosters before yesterday's accident

Bodyguard hurt in 'curse of Klosters' fall

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Prince of Wales's principal bodyguard fell and broke his leg on an alpine ski run at Klosters in Switzerland yesterday while protecting the royal party during their skiing holiday.

Inspector Tony Parker, a member of Scotland Yard's Royal and Diplomatic Squad, was found in considerable pain by a guide and the Prince, who stayed with him until a helicopter arrived to fly him to hospital.

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had an emergency operation at Davos Hospital, eight miles

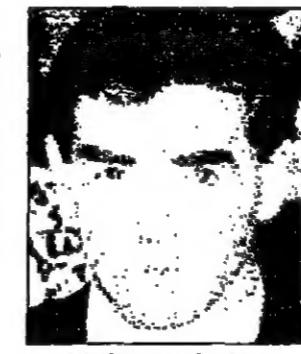
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accompanying the party, which includes Prince William



Parker: leg broken

and Prince Harry, a replacement personal protection officer was expected to be flown to Switzerland.

At no time, it was

near the hip. He was skiing ahead to ensure that the run was clear and safe.

Bruno Sprecher, a ski guide, followed closely by the Prince, discovered Inspector Parker, who was conscious, and the Swiss police called a helicopter.

The Prince intends to go ahead with a full programme of skiing.

Inspector Parker was skiing

ahead of the royal party when the accident happened at 1.10pm. He was on the bottom quarter of the Schwimmboden run on the Madrisa mountain, where ice was turning to slush, leaving rocks exposed.

No-one witnessed the fall but it is thought Inspector Parker may have hit a rock. His right femur was broken

Later, Prince William witnessed a second accident when a skier, thought to be a boy, fell and appeared to have an epileptic fit.

British Gas compensates cold clients

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH GAS is to compensate thousands of customers left without heating after it failed to repair systems covered by its service agreements. The company has started to recruit contract workers to cope with the backlog of central heating repairs.

The cold weather brought a spate of complaints from the three million customers with the Three Star service contracts, which cost as much as £104 a year, when their systems broke down and no engineering help was sent within the 24 hours promised by the contracts.

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US Embassy stops paying staff

BY MARTIN FLETCHER AND EMMA WILKINS

THE waves from America's budget crisis have crossed the Atlantic. More than 300 British employees at the American Embassy in London are working gratis for Uncle Sam because the Grosvenor Square mission has run out of money to pay them.

William Crowe, the ambassador, no longer has any funds for official entertaining. Diplomats can no longer buy their British contacts lunch at Washington's expense. Lowly officials, British or American, who need to take taxis across London must pay the fares themselves because the embassy has no petty cash.

This state of affairs is the result of the partial government shutdown 3,000 miles away in Washington that has lasted a record 19 days as President Clinton and Congress haggle over Republican plans to cut federal spending.

About 280,000 non-essential workers have been laid off temporarily, but British law does not recognise such "furloughs". That means that every British employee at the Embassy and at the American consulates in Edinburgh and Belfast is having to work as normal.

Tomorrow they and their

American counterparts will be paid for the week before the December 15 shutdown, but not the week after, and unless the crisis is resolved by January 18 they will not receive their next fortnightly cheque.

They have no guarantee they will be reimbursed eventually, but every politician in Washington assures them that they will be.

There are 380 Britons among the London Embassy's 650 staff and one official acknowledged last night that the British employees were distressed and disappointed.

They are a sophisticated bunch and understand the dynamics of this, but that does

not help pay next week's mortgage.

It is also the second time in a year that they have faced financial hardship. Last summer the Inland Revenue found that the Embassy had been under-reporting employees' salaries for the past 30 years and demanded £3 million in back taxes. Admiral Crowe saved the day by persuading

the State Department to foot the bill.

London staff said yesterday that uncertainty over their pay had led to stress among workers and low morale.

David Peterson, a senior commercial officer, took up his post in London two months ago but is still meeting

repayments on a mortgage on his house in Atlanta. "It is a very difficult and strenuous situation for everyone. Creditors do not take account of the fact that you have not had a pay cheque," he said.

Although he has worked for the Government off and on since 1961, Mr Peterson has never experienced problems with salaries before.

"Some of my colleagues tell me that this is the fourth time this has happened, but it has never gone on for such a long time."

The London Embassy is not unique in its penury: every American diplomatic mission

Continued on page 2, col 3

is not unique in its penury: every American diplomatic mission

Continued on page 2, col 3

Mayhew links IRA to deaths

THE Northern Ireland peace process faced its gravest crisis after Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, linked the IRA to the murders of seven alleged drug dealers in the Province since April. The latest victim, Ian Lyons, 31, a Roman Catholic, died yesterday after being shot in the head.

Moderate nationalists said the IRA was trying to break the ceasefire and the Ulster Unionists urged the Government to suspend talks with Sinn Fein.

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Muted cheers greet drop in drink-drive figures

BY KEVIN EASON

MOTORING EDITOR

DRINK-DRIVING offences have fallen for the fourth successive Christmas. Police recorded 4,330 positive breath tests in England and Wales, compared with 4,706 over the same period last year, a fall of 8 per cent.

However, one in five of the drivers arrested over the holiday period had failed the breathalyser test after being involved in an accident. The pictures of

a young man crippled by drink-driving, shown over Christmas as part of the Government's £12 million campaign, underlined the theme which has helped to reduce drastically the number of drink-drive related deaths over the past decade.

David Williams, Chief Constable of Surrey and chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' Traffic Committee, said yesterday: "While the overall reduction should be welcomed, it must be treated with a degree of

caution, given that 22 per cent of those who gave positive tests had been involved in an accident."

Government urged to suspend Sinn Fein talks after seventh shooting

Peace in jeopardy as Mayhew links IRA to killings

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, AND JOHN HICKS

THE Northern Ireland peace process faced its gravest crisis last night after Sir Patrick Mayhew linked the IRA to the murder of seven alleged drugs dealers since April.

As moderate nationalists gave a warning that IRA hardliners were trying to break the ceasefire, the Ulster Unionists called on the Government to suspend its talks with Sinn Fein.

John Taylor, deputy leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, said that Sir Patrick, the Northern Ireland Secretary, must take action because loyalists could be the next targets of the IRA gunmen.

The latest alleged drugs dealer to be shot by the IRA died in the early hours of yesterday. Ian Lyons, 31, a Roman Catholic, was shot in the chest by two men as he sat in a car with his girlfriend outside her parents' home in Lurgan, Co Armagh. The attackers, who used pump-action shotguns at close-range, fled on foot.

Relatives of Mr Lyons, who had a son, Nathan, 2, last night denied he had any links with drugs. Pauline Forker, his sister, said: "What gives these cowards the right to murder in cold blood an innocent man who was young and energetic and highly thought of on both sides of the community, just to cover up their own illicit dealings?"

Direct Action Against Drugs said yesterday it had carried out the shooting. Sir Patrick said, however, that the RUC was "pretty convinced" the murder was the work of the IRA. In a BBC Television interview, he said the murder was "not compatible with a

commitment to peaceful methods, to democratic methods. It casts great doubt, therefore, on whether Sinn Fein, who are inextricably linked with the IRA, are themselves committed to peaceful methods.

"Only parties who are committed to peaceful and democratic methods can, of course, expect to sit down and negotiate about the future of Northern Ireland."

Sir Patrick conceded that the killings could jeopardise the Government's plans to hold all-party talks in Northern Ireland. He challenged Sinn Fein to condemn the murders and ridiculed the party's claim that it had no influence over the IRA.

The Ulster Unionists endorsed Sir Patrick's comments, and said he should no longer talk to Sinn Fein while the IRA was using violence. Mr Taylor, MP for Strangford, said: "The Government should not be talking with those who are breaking the ceasefire."

Cardinal Daly described the killings as repulsive and said they were jeopardising the peace process. "Is [Gerry Adams] being undermined from within his own organisation? Time will tell, but time is running out for the peace process."

Mr Mallon, MP for Newry and South Armagh, said he believed the peace process would hold, but added: "There are those within the IRA and other paramilitary organisations who are trying to break that peace, and the way they're doing it is this awful use of violence — public execution in the [lates] instance and in [thel] others in Belfast."

Mr Mallon called on the Sinn Fein leadership to condemn and disown the murders. "There can be no hiding

place for the public representatives regarding these types of assaults. They are going to have to realise that you cannot have this millstone of awful sordid violence hanging round your neck when in effect you are part of the ceasefire."

Sinn Fein said there was not "an iota of evidence" to link the killings to the IRA. Michael McLaughlin, chairman of Sinn Fein, said no political party could condone such actions. "These tragedies have to be brought to an end as quickly as possible."

Despite Mr McLaughlin's comments, security sources in Northern Ireland were in no doubt that the killings had been sanctioned by the IRA leadership. One said that the IRA has increased its dealers on alleged drugs dealers because the terrorists feared they were losing their grip on nationalist areas in the light of the ceasefire.

Some observers in Belfast believe that the shootings are a way of letting off steam among IRA activists, who are frustrated at the slow pace of the peace process. The tactic is highly dangerous, however, because if the IRA attacked loyalist drugs dealers, Protestant paramilitaries would waste little time in retaliating.

Ministers believe that the peace process is facing a delicate phase in the run-up to the publication later this month of the report by the



Ian Lyons, shot by the anti-drugs group thought to be an IRA cover, with his son

former US Senator George Mitchell, head of the body which is examining decommissioning of terrorist arms. The Government will seize the initiative later month with the publication of a White Paper on the future of the RUC. The paper will address nationalist concerns that the RUC is too closely identified with the Unionists.

□ The RUC was investigating the death of a man whose body was found on the outskirts of a village yesterday. Paul McGleenan, 20, of Keady, Co Armagh, is thought to have been involved in a fight in the pub the previous evening.

Kevin Myers, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Mayhew: said killing incompatible with peace



Ashdown rules out defector's by-election plan

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY ASHDOWN last night asserted his authority over Emma Nicholson after the Liberal Democrats' latest recruit floated the possibility of a by-election in her Devon West and Torridge seat. The party leader's aides intervened swiftly to stonewall such speculation after the Tory defector had said that if her constituents wanted a by-election, she would be happy to oblige.

Speaking in a BBC radio phone-in, she said: "I would be perfectly comfortable to have a by-election. Of course, what would happen would be an overwhelming majority, unbelievable, right up in the stratosphere, for the Liberal Democrats, for whom I would

be standing. I think it is a real waste of public funds. However, if sufficient of my electorate come up to me and say 'come on, let's have a by-election', I will go straight to Paddy Ashdown and discuss it with him."

But Mr Ashdown's aides later poured cold water on the prospects of a poll in the West Country seat, where, as the Conservative candidate, Miss Nicholson had a 3,614 majority at the 1992 election. "We don't feel any compunction to go down that route," one senior official said.

Senior Liberal Democrats said that the party wanted to concentrate on other tasks, such as the two by-elections pending in Hemsworth and Staffordshire South East, the May local elections, and the approaching general election. Leadership sources

added that voters, by and large, did not appreciate "unnecessary elections".

But the Tory leadership was in fighting mood yesterday, with Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, challenging Mr Ashdown to call a by-election and Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, telling colleagues that he believed it was the "only honourable course" to take.

Harry Greenway, Tory MP for Ealing North, said: "Given that the whole thrust of Emma Nicholson's defection was that she was taking a moral stand, she should now go all the way and quit. She now has a moral obligation more than most to resign her seat."

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, will today hold a press conference in Tory-held Staffordshire South East

during a visit to prepare the local party machine for a March by-election, which seems likely to cut the Government's majority further.

The parliamentary arithmetic means that John Major will become increasingly dependent on Ulster Unionist support, particularly if he loses his Commons majority later in the year.

John Taylor, the deputy leader of the Unionists, caused fresh tremors in Tory ranks yesterday by saying that his party could "easily" refuse to back the Government in a vote of confidence, the loss of which would precipitate a general election. But senior ministers doubt that the Unionists would carry out the threat.

Simon Jenkins, page 16



Nicholson: comfortable to have a fresh poll

Lyell and Waldegrave will fight resignation calls on Scott report

■ The long-awaited Scott report into the arms-to-Iraq affair is expected to be severely critical of ministers. Philip Webster reports

the Government. Their interpretation of the way the PII system had operated over a lengthy period was that he was that he should do what he did.

The argument of other senior lawyers that he had no authority for his actions is fiercely resisted by Sir Nicholas. The key advice to him came from the First Junior Treasury Counsel at the time, Sir John Laws, now Lord Justice Laws.

A ministerial colleague of Sir Nicholas said yesterday: "Scott may criticise the PII system but there is clearly no open-and-shut case against Nick Lyell for the way he interpreted it. He acted in good faith."

"Surely the only case for a resignation would have been if he had acted in bad faith or

incompetently. Neither is true. He is one of the most conscientious men in the Government."

Another said: "He will be courteous but firm and clear if Scott criticises him. He believes that he acted properly."

Mr Waldegrave has launched a strong counter-attack since last June of early drafts of Sir Richard's report suggested that he was likely to be accused of misleading Parliament when a Foreign Office minister because he had not disclosed that the guidelines governing the sale of arms to Iraq had been relaxed.

Whitehall sources have disclosed that Mr Waldegrave has since submitted a lengthy statement to the inquiry in which he has argued strongly that the guidelines were not changed and that he therefore

could not have misled MPs about them.

At the heart of his case is a letter from Alan Clark, then a trade minister, in which Mr Clark suggested the guidelines should be amended. It was not acted upon.

A ministerial confidant said: "William believes strongly that neither he nor the Foreign Office have anything to be ashamed of."

There are growing indications that other ministers caught up in the affair will escape any serious criticism in the Scott report. Sir Richard is expected to conclude that Mr Clarke, Mr Rifkind, Tristan Garel-Jones and Michael Heseltine acted properly in taking Sir Nicholas's advice to issue the public interest immunity certificates. The Attorney-General was not helped by the disclosure that initially Mr Heseltine declined to sign the certificate.

A Tory backbencher yesterday suggested that ministers should not duck criticism in the report. Sir Tedd Raynsford insisted instead that anyone accused of a serious error of judgment should be chucked "in the Thames". Sir Tedd told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "The Scott inquiry will be a real nightmare because we all know it's going to say some pretty horrible things."

"But in the case of the Scott inquiry, the crucial thing is that if he says something harsh and nasty, we have got to simply accept it."

"If Scott says Mr A and Mr B made an error of judgment and a serious error of judgment, I would chuck them in the Thames as quickly as possible. That's the best answer."

Labour aims to boost housing
By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR will launch fresh proposals next month aimed at restoring confidence in the housing market. Mortgage-holders facing repayment difficulties will be offered a package of measures to help them keep their homes while potential first-time buyers can expect better safeguards to entice them into the market.

The move comes ahead of a conference on the house market in March when Labour will try to capitalise on what it sees at the Government's failure to protect homeowners.

Nick Raynsford, the Labour housing spokesman, published a report yesterday showing that 300,000 homes had been repossessed since John Major came to power in November 1992. More than 1,000 people are now losing their homes each week.

Labour proposals include:

□ Better safeguards against homebuyers being sold the wrong mortgage. Mr Raynsford said too many homeowners were locked into "problematic" mortgages;

□ Changes in the type of mortgages available so that repayments could be more flexible;

□ More effective private mortgage insurance to compensate for the abolition last October of the income support safety net for new borrowers;

□ More options for homeowners to share equity with others, such as a housing association, in an attempt to cut repayments when times are hard.



Lyell and Waldegrave: ready to mount a vigorous defence when the report comes out next month

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Bottomley gambles on lottery's appeal to Middle Britain

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY is to appeal directly to Middle Britain in an attempt to regain the moral high ground for the National Lottery.

The Heritage Secretary will ask Women's Institutes, Round Table organisations and Rotary and Lions Clubs to help to bring the benefits of the lottery to every village and town. Stung by growing criticism that too much lottery cash has gone to large-scale, elitist and urban projects, she is sending out two million leaflets to leaders of local businesses and community groups to explain how small organisations can apply for lottery grants.

Mrs Bottomley is keen to ensure that the game is perceived as a "people's lottery". She hopes that businessmen and women in organisations such as rotary clubs will use their social and professional contacts with local authorities, councils and trades people to help to put together small bids for lottery funding.

A spokesman said: "She wants to reach out to Middle England and to show people that the lottery can be used as a way of regenerating local economies as well as improving community facilities." Mrs Bottomley also wants local



Bottomley: sending out two million leaflets

business leaders to take an active role in putting together lottery bids. Every company is being urged to give one of their best members of staff responsibility for co-ordinating a lottery strategy.

Mrs Bottomley believes that small firms have a strong vested interest. Grants given to small-scale community schemes will benefit local builders and crafts people and suppliers. About 20 per cent of the work undertaken by Camelot, the lottery operator, said that sales had increased substantially yesterday. "It's a possibility that nine out of ten people aged 16 or over will play this week," she said.

The Anglican Bishop of Wakefield, the Right Rev Nigel McCullouch, yesterday renewed his calls for an end to the "obscene" prizes made possible by roll-overs, which encouraged "sheer greed".

"The lottery is not about making the public happy — it is a business set up to make its shareholders rich," the Bishop wrote in the *Daily Mail*. "Camelot, with the connivance of the BBC, tempts an unusually gullible British public with dreams of the happiness that money alone can bring. It is one of the oldest lies."

Arts, page 33

Arthritis research 'likely to cure most victims'

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

MOST cases of arthritis are likely to be cured within the next decade after spectacular progress in care and treatment, a leading British specialist forecast yesterday.

"The proportion of people who get better is increasing, and the number who could gain substantial benefits is nearing 100 per cent," said Professor Paul Dieppe of Bristol University.

Introducing a research review by the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council on its 60th anniversary, he admitted that most sufferers are not yet cured in spite of the progress made "but the research advances give us real reasons for being optimistic that in the future most will be cured."

Professor Dieppe said that two of the main leads emerging from current research were the production of enzyme inhibitors to eliminate the chemicals that erode bones and joints, and the development of ways to switch off the immunological processes behind the progress of arthritis. The most obvious success stories so far had been the development of replacement joints.

It was now believed that researchers were on the threshold of another leap forward in treatment, either through progress in therapy pioneered by the council, which attacks the substances that cause damage to joints, or through genetic work which is providing clues to the cause of the disease.

The council is contributing £17 million a year to arthritis research. The disease in its various forms affects millions of people in Britain, with 600,000 suffering from rheumatoid arthritis and 1,500 from osteoarthritis.

At the council's diamond jubilee conference in Hammersmith, west London, the actor Andrew Sachs, 65, alias Manuel in *Fawlty Towers*. He praised the courage of young sufferers he had met in his work for the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.

small, he said, for the "substantial additional expenditure in terms of police time and Crown Prosecution Service time that would be incurred. It is a crude rule but it applies whether you are talking about a caretaker or a chief officer."

In a letter to parents, the Rev Anne Gordon, the Leesland governors' chairwoman, said: "We set high standards of honesty as an example to our children. Staff and governors have been particularly upset by this."



Jasmine Gardner, who first walked unaided on Christmas Day at the age of 22 months

Church school head resigns after £500 theft is uncovered

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A HEAD TEACHER resigned after admitting taking money raised for her former school, it was revealed yesterday. Mrs Karen Reynolds has since repaid the missing £500.

Her resignation from St John's Church of England primary school in Gosport, Hampshire, had been attributed to sickness. Police were not called in.

The money came from a fundraising event for the town's Leesland Infant Church of England School in the summer of 1994. It was

found to be missing only after Mrs Reynolds left to run neighbouring St John's. Leesland governors called in auditors, and Mrs Reynolds resigned three months ago when they presented her with the results.

Hampshire County Council yesterday confirmed the reason for her departure. Peter Coles, the chief education officer, said: "Money was missing. There was an investigation and Mrs Reynolds admitted having taken the money." The sum was too

First steps give family extra reason for a celebration

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE first steps of Jasmine Gardner, aged 22 months, were particularly special for her family because arthritis had prevented her from even crawling at times.

Jasmine, whose juvenile chronic arthritis was diagnosed at the age of 16 months, walked unaided for the first time on Christmas Day as her parents and brothers were eating dinner.

Her mother Angela said yesterday: "She has been trying to walk for some time but it has been too painful. When

ever she got very ill she would lose any ability to crawl. On Christmas Day I let go of her and she started to walk all around the table. It was absolutely brilliant."

Mrs Gardner, 38, and her husband Andrew brought Jasmine to London yesterday for a conference to mark the diamond jubilee of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

Mrs Gardner, of Wellington, Northamptonshire, said: "Jasmine was taken very ill in January last year. She had been admitted

to hospital with high fever and a rash which they thought was an allergic reaction.

"She was finally diagnosed in July. The doctors could not say what the outcome will be. We don't know if she is going to develop problems with her joints later on in life or whether she is going to grow out of it."

Jasmine's twin sister died after they were born three months prematurely. Mr Gardner, 40, said: "Jasmine is very well at the moment, the best she has ever been."

Shaking all over in a sober new year

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

epileptic fit is often the first indication of trouble ahead but the patient may also run a temperature, suffer cramps and abdominal pain.

Hallucinations may be particularly interesting to the doctor but are always terrifying to the patient. Often they are associated with severe delirium in which the sufferer is speaking in a rambling and inconsequential fashion. But equally the patient often sounds rational and is able to explain clearly, and explicitly,

the ghastly images that he or she is seeing or hearing. Hallucinations can either be auditory — the hearing of voices, for instance — or visual or tactile.

Seeing, and feeling, rats crawling all over the bed, the floor and even their own body is a common visual hallucination, and one which struck a journalist who had been sent to the United States and decided to take the opportunity to give up the booze. As is usually the case, these symp-

toms started within 48 hours of putting the good resolution into practice.

Over Christmas I was told an even more fascinating example of DTs by a retired Irish surgeon. At the end of the Second World War, while in the Navy, he was asked to escort back from the Far East a senior officer who had become an alcoholic.

As they approached the English Channel his charge thought the time had come to give up alcohol. Within hours the senior officer was suffering from the Lilliput syndrome in which everybody around him seemed to be only inches tall; he was terrified.

The surgeon thereafter was able to understand why many of his Irish patients professed to believe so determinedly in the existence of "the little people".

HRT 'does not make women fat'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

LONG-TERM use of hormone replacement therapy to counter the effects of the menopause does not lead to an increase in weight, researchers have found.

Fear of weight gain is one of the principal reasons why women refuse HRT or give it up soon after starting. However, the first study to examine the long-term effects of the treatment has found no evidence that it adds pounds.

One in five post-menopausal women in Britain takes HRT and the proportion is expected to grow to one in three by the end of the decade. But there is a widespread belief among women and doctors that the reduction in menopausal symptoms is bought at the expense of an increase in girth.

Researchers from the University of California studied 671 women over almost 20 years to 1991. Their results, published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, showed that there were no differences between users and non-users of HRT on measures of obesity, fat distribution or body composition.

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Rushdie claims his second Whitbread award

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SALMAN RUSHDIE has won the Whitbread novel award for a second time, in the twenty-fifth year of the literary prizes. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead has taken the biography prize for his book on Gladstone.

They are among five £2,000 category winners whose work goes forward for the overall £21,000 Whitbread Book of the Year prize, to be announced on January 23.

Rushdie won his award for *The Moor's Last Sigh*, a tragicomic story set in modern India and Moorish Granada. He first received the award in 1989 for *The Satanic Verses*.

Rushdie said yesterday that he was "pleased" for the book, explaining that he had a "parental feeling" towards it. "I was very excited when I finished it. I did feel that it was good," he said.

He was happy to hear people talk of the "enjoyment" of reading it. "I have always felt there was no reason why good literature should not be good and enjoyable," Rushdie said, commenting on the divide between serious and popular literature. Awards such as Whitbread would help to take good literature beyond the literary canon, he said.

The Whitbread judges, including the author Canda McWilliam and Joe Snyders, managing director of Dillons, said: "Rushdie gives us a wonderful display of verbal ingenuity and unleashes an explosion of creative energy." Also on the shortlist were Martin Amis's *The Information*, Pat Barker's *The Ghost Road*, the 1995 Booker Prize winner, *In Every Face I Meet* by Justin Cartwright and Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Unconsoled*.

The biography of Gladstone by Lord Jenkins, leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords, was described by the judges as supremely elegant. Bernard O'Donoghue won the Whitbread poetry award for *Gunpowder*. Kate Atkinson won the first novel award for *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*; and Michael Morpurgo took the Beefeater children's novel award for *The Wreck of the Zanzibar*.

On the pop page: predictions for sound success in 1996

PLUS The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

On the pop page: predictions for sound success in 1996

PLUS The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

Matthew Paris in Bolivia in a travel issue of the Magazine

PLUS Sailing special in Weekend and win a Topper dinghy in 1015



Rush claims
second
Whitby
away

New rail firms accused of fleecing passengers

By JOANNA BALE



Wilson: supported call to suspend franchising

TRAIN companies were accused yesterday of widespread overcharging on fares after the break-up of British Rail. The Consumers' Association said its findings were so serious that rail privatisation should be postponed for an urgent review of ticketing methods.

Investigations made more than 200 inquiries or ticket purchases at 28 stations or information points around the country, to check if companies were honouring a commitment to quote rivals' fares where they are cheaper. A report to be published in tomorrow's *Which?* magazine says that the cheapest available fare was not provided in 90 per cent of cases. The total of

fares quoted or charged came to £13.013. If "unbiased" sales advice had been followed, the figure would have been £7.591. The average overcharge was £24 and the highest was £70.20. In some cases, the association was sold invalid tickets.

"The new-look British Rail failed our test miserably," says the report.

"In many cases, the overpriced fares given were more than double the cheapest fare which is listed clearly in the National Fares Manual used by train staff."

As the rail network is divided up for privatisation, many train companies now compete for passengers on similar routes. The companies are obliged to give information about the cheapest ticket on a route, even if it is for a service run by a

rival and even if the journey time is longer. The train companies' willingness to meet these conditions was put to the test in late August and early September. In most cases, questions were put to sales points run by companies that set the higher of two competing fares.

Which? tested five different routes: London-Bristol, London to Carmarthen and Swansea, London-Exeter, London-Bath and London-Birmingham. While the cheapest fare on the London to Bath route was South Wales and West's at £22, InterCity West Coast ticket clerks in London said £53 was the cheapest. Five days later, the clerks said the fare was £45 — an invalid fare for the service needed.

In a letter to Brian Wilson, a

Labour transport spokesman, the Consumers' Association's parliamentary officer Meriel Thorne said: "We were astonished by the results. The degree of misinformation by the train-operating companies suggests they are either flouting their licensing conditions for commercial gain, or that their staff are undertrained or incompetent. Either way, the present arrangement is certainly not working in the passengers' interests."

Mr Wilson said: "I fully support the Consumers' Association's call for franchising to be suspended in the light of this astonishing indictment. We have warned from the outset that individual operators would have no interest in maintaining the benefits which flow from

having a national rail network. If the Tories press on with the rail fragmentation, the quality of service and information throughout the country will decline rapidly. They must heed the conclusions of this report or pay the penalty."

Keith Bill, secretary of the Save Our Railways campaign, said of the survey findings: "We're not surprised at all. British Rail is being broken up into 100 different competing pieces, changes are happening every day, and the system is falling into chaos because of staff reductions and cost-cutting in preparation for privatisation."

"Passengers are now being given the wrong tickets and overcharged. We estimate that they are losing hundreds of thousands of pounds a

year. Unless the drive to privatised is stopped and sanity returned, it's going to get a lot worse."

Barry Doe, who worked with *Which?* on the investigation, said: "The ticketing system is too big to be workable and too complicated for the average booking clerk, despite the use of computers. Some of the InterCity fare differences are staggering. If you travel at different times and on different routes, there are dozens of different possibilities to choose from. Most people are completely unaware of this."

"There must also be an element of bias creeping in because clerks are being paid by one particular company so they are more likely to give information on that company's fares first."

Learners must pass 40-minute theory test before driving

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

QUESTIONS that thousands of learner drivers will have to answer in a written examination before they can take to the roads were disclosed for the first time yesterday.

Candidates will have up to 40 minutes to complete their questions, with a different paper for each category of learner — motorcyclists, and car, lorry, bus or coach drivers.

The £70 million contract to administer the tests over the next five years was awarded yesterday to DriveSafe, a new company that will set up 130 centres to test more than one million learner drivers a year.

Already learners are rushing to take their tests to avoid answering the 35 multiple-

choice questions, selected randomly from more than 600 drawn from the Highway Code, but also demanding knowledge of driver attitudes, alcohol, fatigue and how vehicles affect the environment.

BSM, Britain's biggest driving school, said that the four-month waiting list for tests could grow as people tried to beat the July 1 deadline, when the written test will be introduced. Nobody yet knows how many questions they will have to answer correctly to proceed to the practical driving test, but many learners face an examination with paper and pencil that they have not had since they left school.

The driving test was intro-

A When going straight ahead at a roundabout you should (1) signal right on approach and then left to leave roundabout (2) signal left as you pass exit before the one you will take (3) signal left as you leave exit off roundabout (4) signal left on approach to roundabout and keep signal on until you leave.

B When overtaking a motorcyclist you should: (1) try to pass on a bend (2) move to opposite side of road (3) pass close by and as quickly as possible (4) give as much room as you would for a car.

C To supervise a learner, you must (select two) (1) have had a full licence for at least three years (2) be an approved driving instructor (3) be 21 or over (4) hold an advanced driving certificate.

D When dazzled by oncoming

headlights you should (1) brake hard (2) drive faster past oncoming car (3) slow down or stop (4) flash your lights.

E You have two children and their parents in your car. Who is responsible for ensuring the children wear seatbelts? (1) the parents (2) you the driver (3) the front-seat passenger (4) the children?

F In fog in daylight you should use (1) side lights (2) full beam headlights (3) hazard lights (4) dipped headlights.

G You should use a hand-held mobile telephone if (1) you have stopped at a safe place (2) your vehicle has an automatic gearchange (3) you need to make an emergency call (4) you are on a minor road.

H To supervise a learner, you must (select two) (1) have had a full licence for at least three years (2) be an approved driving instructor (3) be 21 or over (4) hold an advanced driving certificate.

I Answers: A-2; B-4; C-1 and 3; D-3; E-2; F-4; G-1.



Stuart Barlow comforting Niklos Baumgartner after he broke down yesterday. He said: "I will never be a man again. My life is ruined"

Businessman weeps over fatal break-in

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BUSINESSMAN involved in a fatal struggle with an alleged burglar he disturbed during a break-in at his home wept yesterday as he told how the experience had left him "scared for life".

Niklos Baumgartner, 53, from Ockbrook, Derby, was speaking for the first time since the death of Robert Ingham, 22, at his five-bedroomed home on Saturday. At a press conference at the office of Stuart Barlow, his

solicitor, Mr Baumgartner shuffled in with a plaster cast on one wrist and a black eye suffered in the struggle. When asked to describe what effect the incident had had, he said: "I will never be a man again."

Mr Baumgartner, a Hungarian, broke down as his solicitor explained that although police had released him without charge, papers were being forwarded to the Crown Prosecution Service for consideration. Mr Barlow said his client could therefore answer no questions concerning the incident

or his feelings towards Derbyshire police and their treatment of him.

The well-known local businessman, who runs a business laying tennis courts at homes around the country, said his wrist was broken in the scuffle. He said: "My body is full of bruises all over. I have black eyes and it is a job to see. I was terrified, terrified. I have broken down several times and am shaking like a leaf. I am frightened — my life is shattered." Mr Baumgartner then began to shake uncontrollably and was helped from

the room on the point of collapse. His solicitor said: "Mr Baumgartner has experienced a terrifying ordeal and asks that his privacy and that of his wife be respected by all members of the press in order that he can make as speedy a recovery as possible."

A post-mortem examination on Mr Ingham has revealed that he died from a neck injury consistent with Mr Baumgartner's description of the struggle. Detectives have found signs of a forced entry at the house where he lives with his wife Linda, 46.

Drink-driving rate rises in half police areas

POLICE forces analysing yesterday's drink-drive figures discovered wide disparities between areas with some recording an increase in offences and others markedly down.

Northamptonshire's rate of arrests fell by almost half, and Merseyside and Scotland were also substantially down.

But drink-driving offences rose in about half the police areas reporting, including Suffolk, Lincolnshire, Dorset, North Yorkshire, Hampshire, Gloucestershire, Durham, Bedfordshire and Devon and Cornwall.

The pattern of offences seemed in part to follow the sweep of intensely cold weather over Christmas, which might have encouraged motorists to retreat to the warmth of their cars instead of

gambling on the uncertainty of public transport.

Drink-drivers were more likely to be middle-aged, outwardly respectable professionals. Better detection of likely offenders might also account for the rise in offences in traditionally "soft" areas.

The drink-drive figures area by area are:

■ Avon and Somerset: 6 per cent of nearly 600 tests positive.

■ Bedfordshire: 62 motorists positive (59 last Christmas).

■ Cambridgeshire: 37 drivers positive (51 last year); eight involved in accidents.

■ Cheshire: 290 positive out of 9,690 tests (3 per cent); 24 drink-related accidents.

■ Cleveland: 30 positive from 1,080 tests (58 from 1,475 last year). Three drink-related accidents.

■ Devon and Cornwall: 130 positive, 20 per cent increase; 35 drink-related accidents (27 per cent up).

■ Dorset: 125 of 1,574 drivers tested failed (7.9 per cent last year).

■ Durham: 52 positive (40 last year). Twenty drink-related accidents.

■ Dyfed/Powys: 38 arrests, five

after road crashes (53 arrests last year).

■ Essex: 83 out of 4,526 drivers over limit, down by 35 per cent.

■ Gloucestershire: 53 drivers (41 last year) positive from 1,030 tests — almost double last year's testing.

■ Greater Manchester: 336 arrests, down from 352.

■ Gwent: 56 positive or refused sample, 3.9 per cent of more than 1,400 tests.

■ Hampshire: 176 positive, up by 25 per cent.

■ Herefordshire: down 22 per cent at 53, 15 fewer than last Christmas.

■ North Yorkshire: 74 positive (44 last year); ten drink-related accidents.

■ Kent: 100 drivers out of 1,254 over limit, a rate of 8 per cent (6.6 per cent last year).

■ Lancashire: 289 positive, in-

crease of 20; 54 drink-related accidents.

■ Lincolnshire: 49 positive (45 last year) of 1,600 tests; 14 drink-related accidents.

■ Merseyside: 36 positive out of 3,223 tested (1.1 per cent) between December 18 and 29.

■ Metropolitan area: 850 positive tests, up from 812 last year; 135 drink-related accidents.

■ Norfolk: 102 positive (92 last year) since December 4.

■ Northamptonshire: 28 positive (61 last year).

■ North Wales: 65 positive or refusing to take test (92 last Christmas).

■ North Yorkshire: 74 positive (44 last year); ten drink-related accidents.

■ Scotland: 970 positive, 1.3 per cent of 75,735 tests from beginning of December.

■ South Wales: 125 (17 last year); ten alcohol-related accidents.

year) in more than 1,500 roadside checks (918 last year).

■ South West: 130 positive, increase of 19.3 per cent.

■ South Yorkshire: 95 positive tests (94 last year); 26 drink-related accidents.

■ Suffolk: 61 out of 1,314 drivers positive between December 18 and January 1 (fewer than 5 per cent), compared with 55 of 921 last year (6 per cent).

■ Sussex: 118 arrested (157 last year) from 1,941 tests since December 5.

■ Thames Valley (Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire): 186 positive, 35 more than last year, 26 in accidents.

■ West Mercia (Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester): 66 arrests (93 last year); 21 in accidents.

■ Wales: 42 arrested (60 last year); ten alcohol-related accidents.

MP urges ban on alcohol juice ads

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR has called for a ban on advertisements for the new alcoholic lemonades, fruit juices and colas, which it believes are being aimed at under-age drinkers.

The drinks, such as Hooper's Hooch made by Bass and Two Dogs made by Merrydown, are as potent as strong lager.

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, has written to the Advertising Standards Association to complain about a poster campaign for Hooper's Hooch, which features a cartoon leonardo character. He said the advertisements appear to breach the association's rules

on alcohol advertising, which ban "real or fictitious characters who are likely to appeal particularly to people under 18 in a way that would encourage them to drink".

The MP has also asked the association and the Director-General of Fair Trading to investigate the sale and marketing of the drinks.

Ian Morris, a director of communications for Bass, denied that Hooper's Hooch was being aimed at under-age drinkers. "If adults were to get the perception that it was a teenage product they would not drink it because it would not fit in with their lifestyle," he said.

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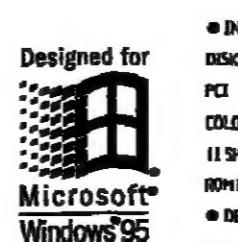
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Rush claims second Whitby award

Dying wish of greatest ballerina 'was denied by money-grubbing husband'

Artist fights for return to Russia of Pavlova ashes

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ANNA PAVLOVA, the greatest ballerina the world has known, made a dying wish to return to her "beloved Russia" once communism had fallen, according to new evidence a Dutch painter claims to have discovered. He has now launched a campaign to have her ashes removed from Golders Green cemetery in northwest London and reinterred in Russia.

In a newly published book, Jean Thomassen also maintains that the former prima ballerina of St Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre was never married to her husband and business manager, Victor Dandré, whom he portrays as a money-grubbing parasite. He insists that Pavlova, who died in The Hague in 1931, was the victim of Dandré's manipulation. He forced her to dance until her death, plundered her British bank account, falsified her dying words and suppressed her wish to return to Russia, according to unseen evidence Mr Thomassen says he found in Dutch archives.

His claims have met fierce opposition from Harvey Thomas, a non-executive director of the Golders Green crematorium, where Pavlova's ashes have lain in a white marble urn for the past 65 years.

Mr Thomas said there was no question of returning the ashes: they were given in perpetuity by Dandré. Under his own will, read after his death in 1944, the crematorium was entitled to "consider" removing the ashes to Russia only if a formal request were

made. No such request had been received, Mr Thomas said. "Anyway, the will stipulated that they could only be returned if due honour, dignity and the security of the ashes were guaranteed," he said. "In Russia today, when the elections have brought Communists back to power, that is clearly out of the question."

Pavlova is one of the more famous people in the cemetery, close to her London home



Pavlova's urn at Golders Green

in Highbury where she lived at the end of her life. Others include Sigmund Freud and Peter Sellars. Mr Thomas, a former director of communications for the Conservative Party, said there was no reason to return the ashes either to The Netherlands or Russia. He accused Mr Thomassen of being obsessional and his crusade was "misguided".

Mr Thomassen, however,

claims Pavlova, as a Russian Orthodox believer, would never have consented to cremation. "I'm sure Anna would have returned home to Russia earlier if she had not been prevented from doing so by Dandré, who was forbidden from going back because of fraud charges there."

Pavlova, born in 1881, rapidly established herself as the most celebrated dancer of her time. Already a prima ballerina in 1906, she went to Paris on the historic tour of the Ballets Russes in 1909, and after 1913 danced independently with her own company throughout the world.

For the rest of her life, with various partners (including Laurent Novikov and Pierre Vladimirov) and companies, she was a wandering missionary for her art. Her performance is said to have left all those who saw her with a lasting memory of disciplined grace and poetic movement.

Pavlova had no children. Her home, Ivy House in Hampstead, became famous for the ornamental lake with swans, symbolic of her most famous role, the Saint-Saëns dying swan, which she performed 4,000 times.

On her deathbed, she is reputed to have said "Prepare my swan costume", but Mr Thomassen said she really asked her maid to send back the designer dress she had recently bought in Paris and give the money to one of her orphanages.

She gave her name to pavlova, a marshmallow and meringue confection topped with whipped cream.



A 1910 portrait study of Anna Pavlova, the Russian ballerina who lived in London up to her death in 1931

EUROPEAN SUMMARY

Greek bid to put off succession

Athens: The press aide to Andreas Papandreou, the ailing Greek Socialist Prime Minister, warned Socialist deputies yesterday that attempts formally to replace him would be unconstitutional (John Carr writes).

Telermachos Kyritsis, the Press Minister and a confidant of Mr Papandreou's, said: "Any decision in the Prime Minister's absence would be a deviation from lawful procedures." The statement was seen as an attempt to scotch moves to find a successor to Mr Papandreou, who has been critically ill and politically inactive for 44 days.

Several Socialist deputies yesterday called for moves to fill the power vacuum. The constitution has no rule for the present circumstances but a decision is expected after a party central committee meeting on January 20.

Polish spy claim denied

Moscow: A former Russian spy said he would bring to light secret recordings to prove Polish agents had fabricated stories alleging Poland's Prime Minister, Józef Oleksy, co-operated with the KGB.

Vladimir Alganov, a security officer at the Soviet Embassy in Warsaw in 1981-1992, said Polish agents had masterminded the charges to try to prevent Mr Oleksy gaining power. Mr Oleksy has said the allegations were based on evidence made up by embittered backers of former President Wałęsa. (Reuters)

Soares to give up politics

Lisbon: President Soares, Portugal's champion of democratic rule since the 1974 revolution, will leave politics when he steps down on March 8. Senhor Soares, 71, head of the Socialist Party for more than a decade, has been Prime Minister three times and President twice.

Marshal Antonio de Spínola, 85, Portugal's first President after the 1974 revolution, is in hospital with a respiratory infection. (Reuters)

New Austrian finance chief

Vienna: Franz Vranitzky, the Austrian Chancellor, named Viktor Klima as Finance Minister after the resignation of Andreas Stabinger. Herr Klima, 48, a member of the Social Democrats, was Minister for State Industry and Transport. Herr Stabinger, 38, quit after just nine months in office, saying he was disillusioned. (Reuters)



Mussolini wins contest

Rachele Mussolini, a 21-year-old sociology student and granddaughter of the late dictator, poses after winning a Miss Italy beauty contest in Rome yesterday. Signorina Mussolini is the daughter of Romano Mussolini, the jazz-playing rebel son of Il Duce. Her half-sister Alessandra, right, unsuccessfully ran as the right-wing National Alliance candidate for mayor of Naples last year. (AP)



THE NEW STAFF

Renault boss investigated over phone taps

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

LOUIS SCHWEITZER, the chairman of Renault, the French car manufacturer, has been placed under formal legal investigation for alleged involvement in a government telephone-tapping scandal. The alleged offences are said to have been committed when he was chief aide to Laurent Fabius, the former Socialist Prime Minister.

The investigation, under French law protecting personal liberty, is the latest embarrassing chapter in a sordid saga dating back to the mid-1980s. The phones of several hundred people, including prominent political and economic figures and journalists, lawyers and artists were allegedly bugged by the anti-

terrorist unit at the Elysée Palace between 1983 and 1989 when François Mitterrand was President. The so-called "Elysée eavesdropping affair" is just one of several damaging scandals left from the corruption-plagued Socialist presidency.

M Schweitzer, 53, was formally placed under investigation by Judge Jean-Pierre Valat last November, but the legal inquiry was not disclosed until yesterday. A Renault spokesman said yesterday that M Schweitzer had not yet appeared before a magistrate, but the investigation marks the first stage of a process that could result in a full-scale criminal trial. Four of M Mitterrand's associates, in-

cluding two police officials, are already under investigation in connection with the affair.

M Schweitzer is believed to have countersigned telephone-tapping instructions issued by Gilles Ménage, one of M Mitterrand's top aides, who went on to head EDF, the state-owned electricity company. M Ménage is also under investigation in the case, along with Christian Prouet, the former head of the anti-terrorist unit who later co-ordinated security for the 1992 Albertville Winter Olympic Games.

Investigating magistrates have reportedly collected thousands of computerised records compiled by the anti-terrorist squad, containing detailed information on relatives and friends of those people whose telephones were tapped, including several close associates of M Mitterrand.

If the former government officials are eventually found guilty of abusing their authority by infringing individual liberty, they could face ten-year prison sentences. A lesser charge of invasion of privacy carries a sentence of up to three years.

M Schweitzer, the great-nephew of Nobel prize winner Albert Schweitzer, was awarded the Legion of Honour in recognition of his political work. He was M Fabius' chief aide from 1981 until 1986 when he joined Renault, the state-owned car company.



Schweitzer: top aide in Socialist Government

Price of olive oil 'set to double'

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE price of olive oil is expected to double this year as a result of one of the Mediterranean's worst droughts this century, according to figures announced yesterday by the producers' association in Spain, one of the major olive-growing regions.

Both the Spanish association, Asoliva, and the Spanish agricultural union, Asaja, are demanding an urgent subsidy from the European Union to stop the price rise and to discourage European users from switching to cheaper oils.

"The harvest is going on now and, although it is still difficult to calculate, we ex-

pect exports to be almost halved," said Juan Vicente Gómez Moya, director of Asoliva, yesterday.

He said the latest figures for exports to the United Kingdom showed that sales had already dropped 20 per cent last year because of price rises, and gave a warning that there was also a bad harvest in Italy and Greece, the other two main EU producers.

"We need immediate help from the European Union," said José Ramón Díaz, the spokesman for Asaja. "There is no European oil lake to make up the shortfall for the export market." He said that the present EU subsidies of £1.26 per kilogram for producers and 1p per litre bottle were too little.

One reason why olive oil may not get an emergency subsidy, however, is because the Socialist Government in Madrid seems surprisingly unconcerned, even though the harvest will be down to about 275,000 tonnes compared with 480,000 tonnes last year.

"We have 150,000 tonnes in reserve," said a spokesman at the Ministry of Agriculture, "and the shortfall in olive oil for non-producing EU countries can be made up with imports from Tunisia and Turkey, since import taxes have now been reduced."

Bosnian Serbs 'abducted 17'

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE Bosnian Government has said that at least 17 people have been kidnapped by the Bosnian Serbs since December 22 after being dragged from their vehicles on a road recently opened by the Nato peace implementation force (Ifor). They are said to be detained in Ilidza, a Serb-held suburb of Sarajevo.

Nato officials say that the Government's claims are unsubstantiated and that Ifor has received no formal complaints about the disappearances. Nevertheless, a Bosnian government minister said lists of the 17 people, with the dates and details of the kidnappings, were presented



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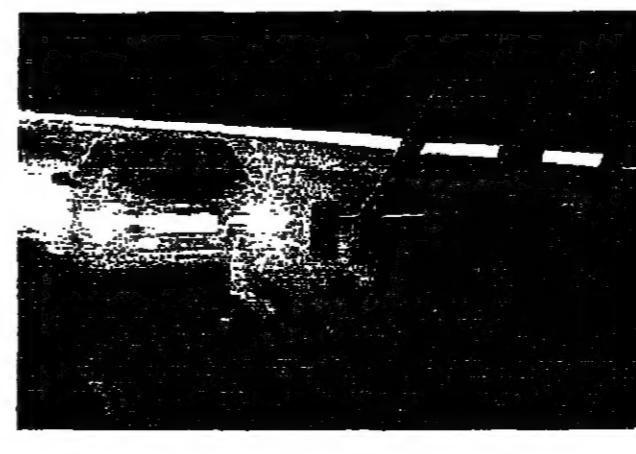
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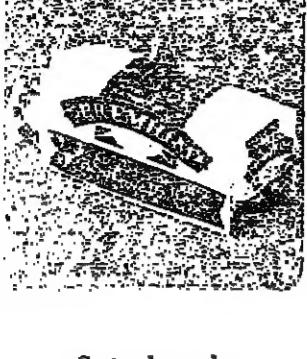
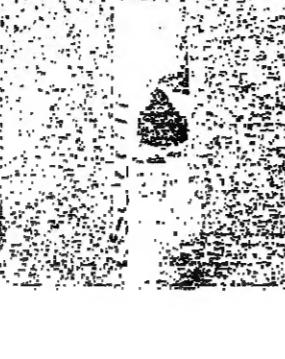
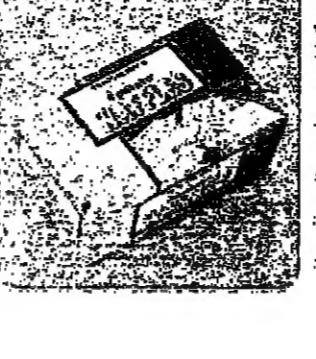
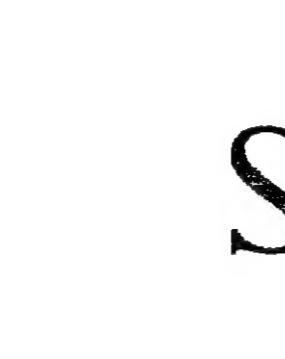
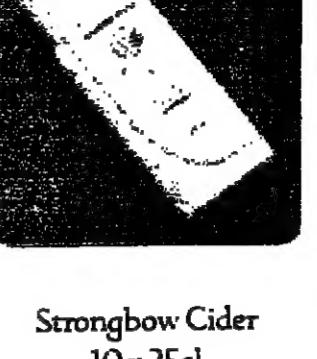
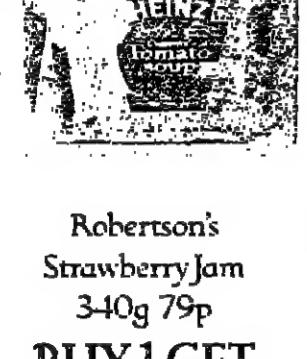
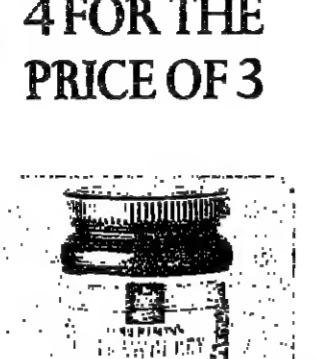
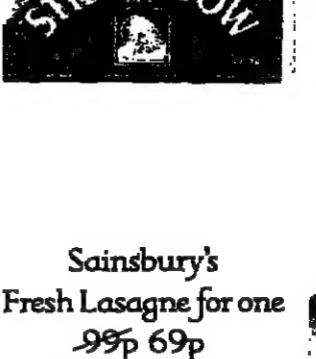
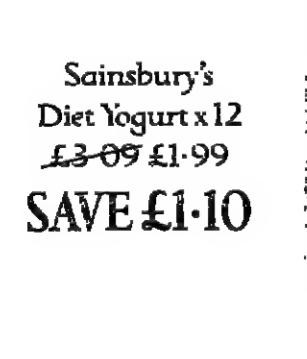
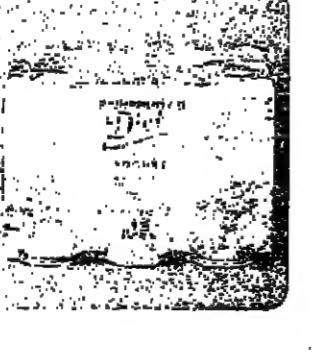
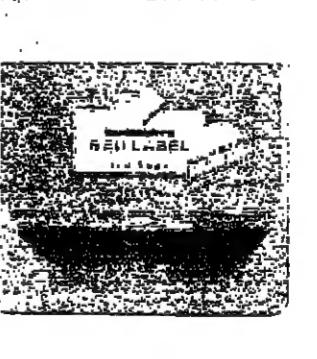
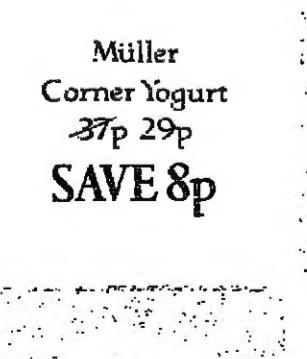
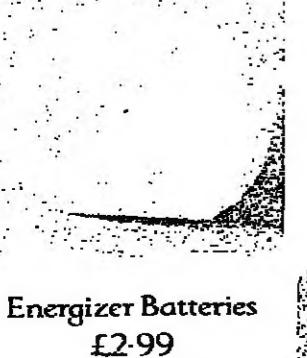
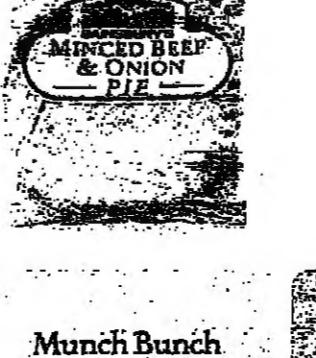
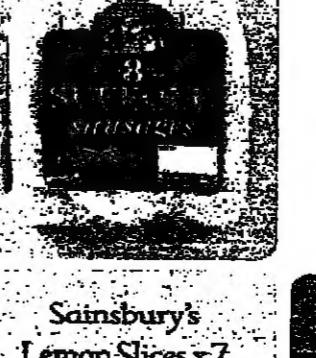
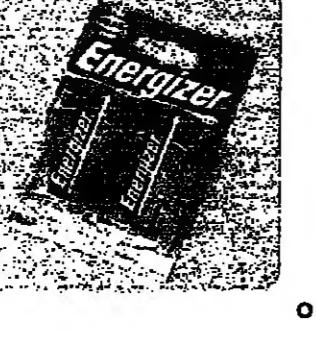
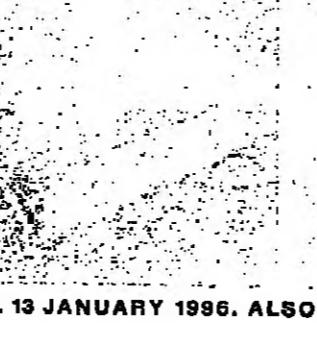
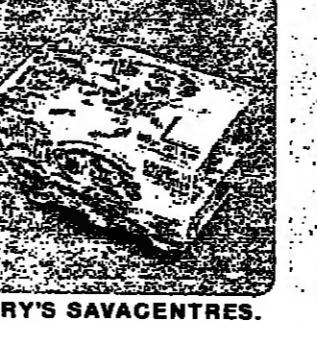
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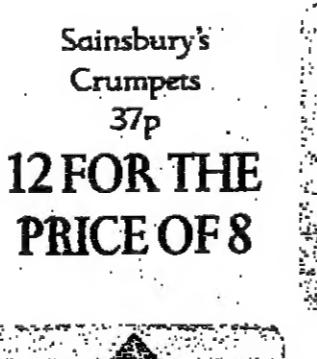
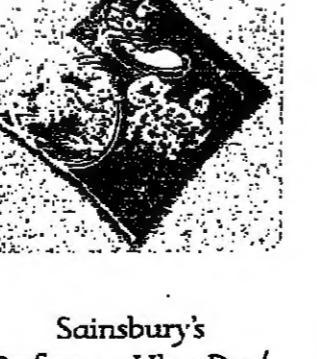
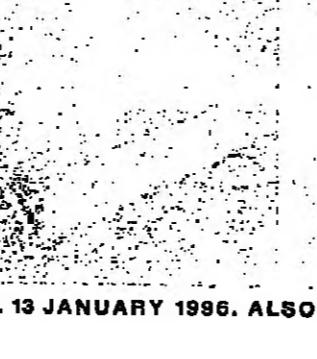


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	Sainsbury's Thick Cut Sausage and Egg Sandwich £1.19 69p SAVE 50p		Heinz Tomato Soup 4x405g £1.23 4 FOR THE PRICE OF 3		Sainsbury's B5 Active Shampoo/Conditioner 1L £1.49 BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE		Strongbow Cider 10x25cl SPECIAL PURCHASE £2.99		
	Robertson's Strawberry Jam 340g 79p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Sainsbury's Sport Shower Gel 500ml £1.19 BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Sainsbury's Fresh Lasagne for one 99p 69p SAVE 30p		Duerr's Thick Cut Marmalade 454g 79p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		
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	Müller Corner Yogurt 375g 29p SAVE 8p		Sainsbury's Cheesy Feet 95p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Sainsbury's Foam Bath 1 litre 99p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Hula Hoops 10 £1.49 BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE		Sainsbury's Frozen Garden Peas 907g £1.29 99p SAVE 30p
	Ham on the Bone (knuckle) 89p 59p per 100g SAVE 30p per 100g		Sainsbury's Performers Ultra Dry/ Ultra Thin £5.39 BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE		Sainsbury's Minced Beef & Onion Pie 400g £1.09 79p SAVE 30p		Suffolk Choice 8 Sausages £1.29 BUY 2 GET 3RD FREE		Sainsbury's Lemon Slices 7 £1.02 BUY 2 FOR £1.49
	Energizer Batteries £2.99 BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE		Split Tin White Bread 800g 74p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Munch Bunch Pot Shots 12x12g £2.05 £1.69 SAVE 36p				

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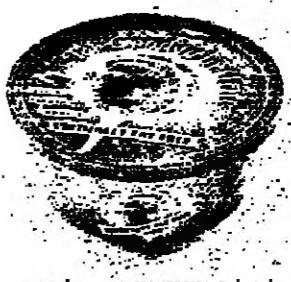
Harvest Grain
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Cadbury's
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Wall's "Too Good To
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**BUY 2 GET
3RD FREE**



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Spontex 'S' Sponge
79p
**BUY 1 GET
1FREE**



Haze Air Freshener
300ml 89p
**BUY 1 GET
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PRICE**



Sainsbury's Frozen
Toad in the Hole
79p 49p
SAVE 30p



Aero Mousse x 2
79p
**BUY 1 GET
1FREE**



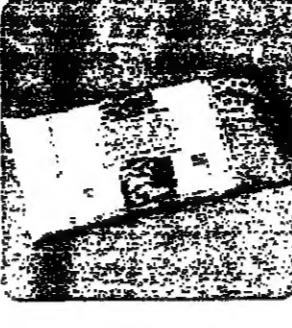
Alicante Tinto 75cl
SPECIAL PURCHASE
£2.25



Sainsbury's
Classic Cola
24x330ml
SPECIAL PURCHASE
£3.99



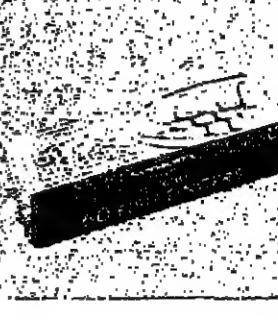
Sainsbury's Diet
Chocolate Mousse x 4
£1.09
**BUY 1 GET
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Sainsbury's
Basmati Rice 3kg
£3.79
**3kg FOR THE
PRICE OF 2kg**



Sainsbury's
60 Fish Fingers
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Sainsbury's TOPS
Standard Mouthwash
500ml £1.19
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Sainsbury's
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**BUY 1 GET
1FREE**



Sainsbury's
Battenberg
82p
**BUY 1 GET
1FREE**



Mars/Snickers
Snacksize & Milky
Way x 10 £1.57
**BUY 2 GET
3RD FREE**



Sainsbury's
Frozen Large Chicken
2kg
£3.29 £2.29
SAVE £1

Sainsbury's are making things a little easier
this January. Across the month we're

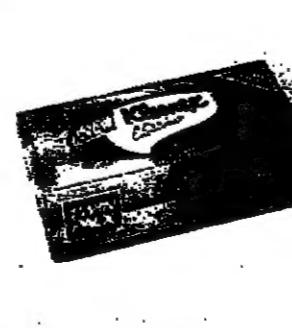
introducing 200 January Savers.

They're either dramatically down in price
or multibuys that give you more for your
money. So you can afford to give
your family the best, even in January.

**Sainsbury's.
Where good food
costs less.**



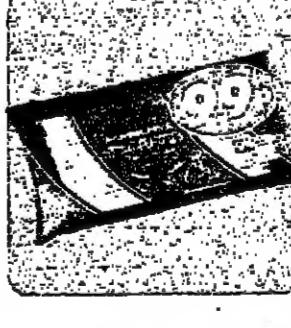
Sainsbury's
6 Cod Portions in
Crispy Breadcrumbs
£2.95 £1.95
SAVE £1



Kleenex Ultra Tissues
Mansize x 2
£2.89 £1.89
SAVE £1



Sainsbury's
Pure Apple Juice
4x1 litre
£3.19 £2.39
SAVE 80p



Del Monte
Peach Slices 2x415g
SPECIAL PURCHASE
89p



Sainsbury's
Spaghetti 2kg
SPECIAL PURCHASE
99p



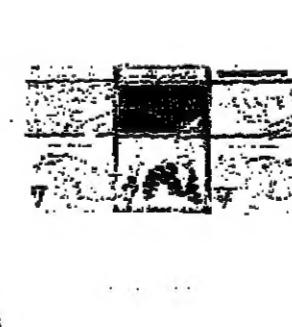
Sainsbury's
Cheese
Singles Light x 20
200g
£1.69 84p
HALF PRICE



Loose Rolls
16p each
**BUY 1 GET
1FREE**



Sainsbury's
Variety Ready Drinks
27x250ml
SPECIAL PURCHASE
£4.99



Sainsbury's
Baked Beans
6x420g
SPECIAL PURCHASE
99p



Sainsbury's
Niersteiner Gutes
Domtal 75cl
£2.85 £2.45
SAVE 40p



Sainsbury's
Grapefruit Segments
2x539g
SPECIAL PURCHASE
99p



Libby's
Rice Pudding
3x439g
SPECIAL PURCHASE
99p



Sainsbury's
Spaghetti 4x410g
95p 79p
SAVE 16p



Kellogg's
Rice Krispies
440g
£1.55 £1.25
SAVE 30p



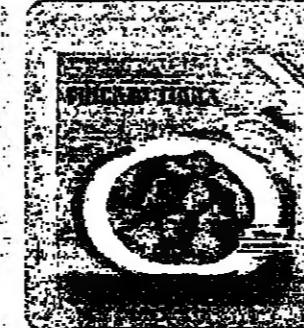
Sainsbury's
Pasta Sauce x 2,
Linguine and
Free Storage Jar
SPECIAL PURCHASE
£2.49



Sainsbury's
Cheese and
Onion Flan
£1.49 99p
SAVE 50p



Sainsbury's
Fresh Chicken Tikka
340g
£2.79 £1.39
HALF PRICE



Sainsbury's
Rice Krispies
440g
£1.55 £1.25
SAVE 30p

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Brazilians find 4,000 trapped in slavery

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BAURU, SÃO PAULO STATE

MORE than 4,000 people have been found by the Brazilian authorities working in conditions of virtual slavery in five ranches just outside the small town of Bauru in São Paulo state.

Organisations representing the country's landless groups blame the situation on the Government which, they say, has done little to push through much-needed land reforms. "Land is in the hands of a few powerful people and on their territory they can do as they please," Nilson Costa, a member of one of the main groups, said. "We have made international organisations aware of this situation. But as yet there has been no change."

Among the 4,000 "slaves" was Ana Maria de Almeida, who has spent most of her 14 years shackled with rusty chains to the trees in the pine plantations of southern Brazil. She has never been to school nor seen outside the wire fences that surround them.

She and her two younger brothers, who are nine and ten, are forced to work from dawn to dusk, extracting a thick, brown resin from the trees used to manufacture products such as chewing gum and glue which are exported to the United States and Europe. In return, they earn a meagre daily ration of beans and rice.

Like hundreds of other children working the ranches that lie along a railway line linking the industrial capital of São Paulo to the agricultural rich west of the state, they are tied to the trees to prevent them from escaping. The sores on their hands and infected cuts on their legs are a result of the careless use of sulphuric acid that they spray on to diagonal cuts made in the tree trunks to activate the flow of the rubbery resin.

Ana Maria's father, João Bueno, 58, who has been left

blind from contact with the toxic material, works alongside his children in the Fazenda Divina (Divine Ranch), one of the biggest plantations on the outskirts of Bauru. Like most of the adults, he has been spared the chains and is bound to the plantation by a debt to the ranch shop, where he is forced to buy food. He said: "I will have to work 14 hours a day for the rest of my life to pay it off. There is no way out." He says he was sold to a landlord to work as a resin extractor when he was nine.

The five ranches were raided last month by government inspectors after receiving complaints from human rights groups and one man has been arrested, accused of being the slave vendor in the region. They said that more than half of those who were found working in terrible conditions were under 14.

The names of the landowners who profited from the use of slave labour have been kept secret, and those forced to work on the ranches have not been freed. "We have reported the slavery to the central Government and highlighted how children are being kept in atrocious conditions to extract pine resin," said Silvio Carlos Lima Pereira, a government representative in the town of Bauru. "But local landowners have a lot of economic power and it has been impossible to change the condition of the people involved."

The existence of slavery in Brazil more than 100 years after it was abolished officially in 1888 has been long known. However, the discovery of slaves in the rich south has shocked many. "This is an embarrassing sign that we still live in the dark ages, even in the modernised part of our country," said Renato Simões, president of the Human Rights Commission of the São Paulo legislative assembly.

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Peter Bleach, a Briton, is escorted from a court in Purulia, West Bengal, after being remanded in custody on Monday for a week. He and five Latvians were arrested by the Indian authorities on suspicion that an aircraft they were flying had

dropped weapons including assault rifles and rocket-launchers into a rural area near the border with Bangladesh. They were detained by

the police after two Indian jet fighters forced their Russian-built cargo aircraft to land in Bombay on December 22. The police said the

aircraft belonged to the Hong Kong-based Carol Airlines, owned by Kim Peter Davy, a New Zealander, who is alleged to have fled after the plane landed. The Purulia court also remanded the Latvian crew in custody. (AP)

Black Watch denies inquiry allegations over triad links

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

THE British garrison headquarters in Hong Kong last night strongly denied a local newspaper story alleging investigations into links between Black Watch servicemen and the colony's notorious triad gang.

The garrison statement, issued only after the story was quoted in *The Times* yesterday, said the Royal Hong Kong Police and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (Icac) had confirmed that there were no investigations into links between soldiers and organised crime syndicates.

Kieron Flynn, the journalist who wrote the original article, stood by the story, however. He said the *Eastern Express* newspaper had "no problems" with the story, which said at least 12 soldiers had become full members of the Sun Yee On triad after moonlighting as bouncers in Hong Kong bars.

The article claimed that they had been brought back to the colony for interviews and had

been given guarantees that they would not be prosecuted. The garrison statement said no soldiers from the Black Watch had been brought back for that or any other investigation and no certificate of immunity from prosecution has been issued to any member of the Black Watch... by the police, who have no right to do so. We have today confirmed that the Director of Public Prosecutions, who does have this power, has also not issued any such certificate of immunity."

The garrison also attacked the *Eastern Express* for failing to print its statement that it had no knowledge of such an investigation, no records of any request for assistance by the police and no evidence of any servicemen being returned to Hong Kong for investigation.

The Times yesterday reported a similar statement from the garrison, but also quoted a spokesman saying: "I can't give you a categorical denial."

So far, neither the police nor the garrison has denied, or formally addressed, the assertion that Black Watch soldiers had joined the Sun Yee On triad.

Colony's young 'want to leave'

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

MORE than 40 per cent of Hong Kong's young would like to leave the colony before the Chinese takeover in 1997, according to an opinion poll. They said they would go abroad if they could because of what they know about China's threat to freedom and human rights after the transfer of sovereignty. They were also concerned about corruption, crime, and the difficulty of getting a job.

The poll of 1,660 people between the ages of 15 and 24 was conducted by the University of Hong Kong's Institute of Pacific Studies and one of the district boards, a local authority. The organiser, Dr Timothy Wong, said that young people who know about political conditions in China from what they read in the press, were asking themselves if the same conditions would develop in Hong Kong after 1997.

Dr Wong painted a picture of cynical Hong Kong young people who feel politically helpless and distrust the Civil Service. Almost a quarter are unaware that they have the right to vote.

The foundation's listing includes bloodshed from Afghanistan to Yemen and in countries as diverse as the Comoros, near Madagascar, which suffered an attempted coup, and the United States, included because of drug violence and organised crime.

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World conflicts on increase, says US pro-military lobby

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE world suffered a record 71 conflicts last year, according to an American group that opposes military spending cuts in the United States.

The tally, one more than in 1994, was double the number logged by the National Defence Council Foundation in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall came down. The foundation lists any country where turmoil has disrupted economics, politics or security.

Andrew Messing, the foundation's executive director, said that despite progress towards peace last year in the Middle East, Ireland and the former Yugoslavia, "we're having a problem generating peace worldwide."

The main dangers emerging in the post-Cold War era were nuclear and biological weapons proliferation, the growing militarisation of China, and violence related to drug trafficking.

The foundation's listing includes bloodshed from Afghanistan to Yemen and in countries as diverse as the Comoros, near Madagascar, which suffered an attempted coup, and the United States, included because of drug violence and organised crime.

Mark Mansfield, a spokesman for the CIA, said the agency had counted 27 conflicts during the year. Last spring, the Washington-based Centre for Defence Information, a liberal-leaning research group, found 20 active wars and a dozen less intense or latent conflicts.

In Britain, Professor Alexander Kenaway, senior lecturer at the Conflict Studies Research Centre at Sandhurst, said: "Did you ever believe that the Warsaw Pact was going to attack Nato, or vice versa? I didn't, and I think the world is a more dangerous place now because of the absence of coherent policy in the former Soviet Union."

Countries that were added to the foundation's list of conflict areas last year were Bangladesh, the Comoros, Djibouti, France, Ghana, Libya, Mali, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, and Spain.

Countries dropped from the list were: the Bahamas, Belize and Costa Rica; Ireland and Britain, because of the reduced threat from Irish terrorism; and Mozambique, Malawi, and Turkmenistan, with less political violence.

Hope for peace in custody battles

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE
IN SYDNEY

WITH a rising divorce rate and acrimonious custody disputes clogging its courts, Australia has a possible solution to the problem of couples squabbling over parental access: exchange centres.

An \$AUS5 million (£2.4 million) network of nine centres was announced last week by Michael Lavarch, the Attorney-General, who said they would seek to "reduce the risks of violence and minimise emotional trauma" for the children as well as the parents.

The move follows community discussion and research into what the courts call "complex contact cases" of intractable dispute between parents.

The centres were recommended as a possible remedy in a report last April by the Australian Law Reform Commission. Michael Ryland, the commissioner, said that it was very important to make sure there were mechanisms to deal with conflict between separated parents, and the centres served this role.

"In many cases, every time a parent turns up for access to the children, huge and horrendous fights erupt and after a few months of this, inevitably a parent returns to the courts and applies to change the custody order," he said. The centres would take custody out of an environment that was prone to dispute.

Mr Lavarch said that in most cases, separated parents were able to put their differences aside for their children's benefit. "But there are a proportion of cases where access is often denied," he said.

Sometimes the custodial parent was fearful for his or her own safety. In other cases, the relationship between the parents was so bad that it hindered the children's right to have access to both parents.

Welfare officials were also concerned that some changes were happening in unsuitable places ranging from the steps of police stations to car parks of fast-food restaurants.

"Now that isn't the best sort of atmosphere for children, and the idea behind these centres is to take it out of that sort of atmosphere and into a safe and secure atmosphere," Mr Lavarch said.

The centres will have separate entrances so that parents would not have to see or speak to each other at all during the exchange.

"In some cases, where a poor relationship between the parents makes any contact very difficult, these services will allow the children to continue contact with both parents," Mr Lavarch said.

Mr Ryland said that the commission had looked at the extreme 1 per cent of custody cases. "A couple can appear in court more than 20 times over a single application... it shows something is not working in the way the family court is dealing with these cases."

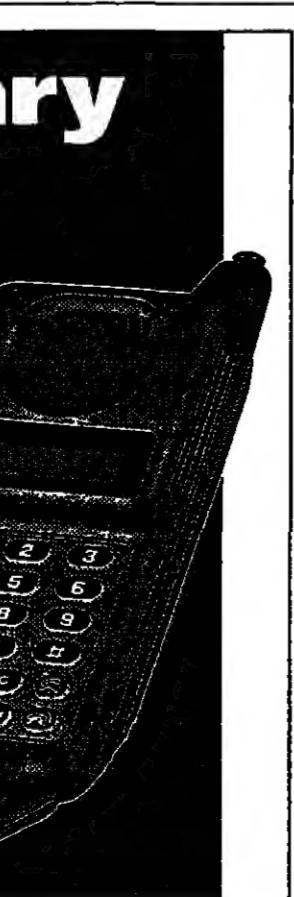
Germ war on toads

A VIRUS from Venezuela is being tested by Australian scientists as a new weapon against the horde of cane toads spreading across the country (Nick Nuttall writes).

The giant poisonous toads, brought into Australia in the 1930s to munch their way through sugar cane bugs and pests, have become a scourge. Scientists fear the creatures are threatening native wildlife. The toads, which now

number several million, have also attacked and eaten cats and dogs. They can kill a pet in 30 seconds by squirting it with a poisonous liquid.

Attempts to kill off the species proved futile, but the discovery of a virus-like disease called irdio in South America has given scientists hope. It is being tested at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in Sydney.



American diners toy with butterflies in the stomach

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THERE may soon come a day in America when having a fly in your soup is a cause not for complaint but for celebration.

Entomologists and farmers specialising in what is known as "micro-livestock" are striving to convince Americans that insects such as grasshoppers and termites make a tasty, protein-rich source of food. Customers cannot yet pick up a serving of deep-fried ant larvae or mashed grubs with their hamburger at the local fast-food joint, but they can now buy a variety of insect snacks.

David Fluker, a Louisiana farmer who supplies insects to zoos and pet shops, recently started marketing freeze-dried, oven-roasted crickets dipped in chocolate or covered in spicy Cajun sauce for \$1.89 (£1.20) a packet.

Asian groceries are meanwhile stocking exotic specialities such as canned silkworm pupae fried with onion and spices and giant waterbugs. The trend is catching. Several insect cookbooks have been published, including *Butterflies in My Stomach: Unbelievable Cuisine and Entertaining with Insects*, which is about to go into its third edition. A quarterly *Food Insects Newsletter*, produced



have always resisted biting off beetles or picking at pear worms.

Experts offer these other tips: hairy caterpillars should be turned inside out and gutted; termites should be killed by biting down on their head; cicadas should be skewered length-wise and soaked overnight in salt water; palm

NatWest Interest Rates

National Westminster Bank announces the following interest rates, effective from 3rd January 1996:

	Savings	Gross Interest per annum	Gross CAR	Net Interest per annum
TESSA Reserve For Free Savings No Minimum Balance	6.500%	6.66%	N/A%	
Diamond Reserve 1 Month Notice - Interest paid monthly	5.250%	5.38%	3.94%	
£100,000 - £99,999	4.875%	4.99%	3.66%	
£25,000 - £49,999	4.500%	4.59%	3.38%	
£10,000 - £24,999	4.125%	4.20%	3.09%	
£2,000 - £9,999	3.250%	3.30%	2.44%	
Premium Reserve Instant Access				
£50,000 and above	4.125%	4.19%	3.09%	
£25,000 - £49,999	3.750%	3.80%	2.81%	
£10,000 - £24,999	3.375%	3.42%	2.53%	
£2,000 - £9,999	3.125%	3.16%	2.34%	
First Reserve Instant Access				
£1,000 and above	3.000%	3.03%	2.25%	
£500 - £999	2.750%	2.78%	2.06%	
£250 - £499	1.625%	1.62%	1.22%	
£100 - £249	1.500%	1.51%	1.13%	
£0 - £99	1.375%	1.38%	1.03%	

The rates for all other personal savings accounts remain unchanged.

Where appropriate, Basic Rate will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Otherwise (for example, subject to the required registration form), interest will be paid gross.

The Gross Compounded Annual Rate (CAR) is the rate where gross interest payments are retained in the account during the year.

The Net Rate is the rate paid after deducting income tax at the Basic Rate, currently 25%.

National Westminster Bank Plc
41 Lombard, London EC2P 2BT

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NatWest
Interest Rates



Help us to celebrate our 125th birthday by providing the 125th signature.

1995 is a year in which we will not only be celebrating the achievements of the past, but laying down firm foundations for our future.

The names that you see on the page

have all committed themselves to help or support us.

If you would like to know how you can help, jot down your name in the space provided and add your full address.

Then simply post this advertisement to John E. Gray, Director of Public Affairs, British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EJ. Alternatively, phone us on 0171 201 5158.



The party may be over but the invitation still stands.

A big thank you to all those who signed up for our Birthday year and a gentle reminder that we still need your help in the year ahead.



British Red Cross

مكتبة الأطفال

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3 1996

Getting your face in the press can do wonders for your image.



What's critical in cultivating an image is not where you go, it's where you go to be seen (spell that S-C-E-N-E).

And the ultimate scene to make your face famous is the newspaper. This is as true for brands as for people.

In the case of Jaeger, it's even true of their typeFACE - rarely have we seen so much swash, such a lot of buckle in so few words.

This startling ad is part of a press campaign that brings new style to a

brand which has not always been in the forefront of people's minds.

It certainly made the judges in our recent Newspaper Advertising Awards stare - and then hand it a top prize.

Ah, what it is to be famous.



Egyptian Cabinet resigns

Cairo: Atef Sedki, the Prime Minister of Egypt, and his Cabinet, resigned yesterday after nine years in office, the official Menya news agency said.

Kamal el-Ganzouri, 62, the Deputy Prime Minister, said he had been asked by President Mubarak to form a new government. The action came less than a month after Egyptians chose a new parliament in elections that were criticised as rife with fraud. The Cabinet's decision to resign was made at a half-hour emergency session. The last big reshuffle was in October 1993.

The move came as a surprise because President Mubarak said after the elections that he saw no need for big Cabinet changes. (AP/APP)

Banned skater marries again

Los Angeles: Tonya Harding, whose first husband helped to destroy her figure-skating career two years ago, has remarried (Giles Whittell writes). Ms Harding was banned for life from competitions after her chief rival, Nancy Kerrigan, was attacked on the eve of the US national figure-skating championships in 1994. Picture rights to her wedding to Michael Smith were sold for £6,600.

First meal for Seoul protester

Seoul: Chun Doo Hwan, the jailed former South Korean President, ate his first solid meal — boiled mushrooms, shredded beef in soy sauce, and rice porridge — after ending his three-week hunger strike to protest his innocence on charges of masterminding the 1979 military coup. Prosecutors have resumed questioning him in hospital. (APF)

Indonesia hit by tidal wave

Pale: Indonesian police said that at least eight people had been killed by a tidal wave after an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale hit Indonesia's Sulawesi island on New Year's Day. Officials said that at least 364 buildings had been damaged by the quake. (Reuters)

Bridal suite

Taipei: A couple in Taiwan are to marry in a £64,000 public bathroom they built themselves. Five other couples will marry in the bathroom, lavishly decorated and located in a park in central Taiwan, on January 14. (Reuters)

'Islamic fundamentalism thrives in the poorest areas and feeds on deprivation'

Middle East threatened with 'mutiny and revolt'

A LEADING Arab intellectual has delivered a warning that, despite Israeli-Arab peace moves, the Middle East faces an explosion of social and economic discontent.

Mohamed Heikal, who advised both President Nasser and President Sadat of Egypt, and is former editor of the Cairo daily *al-Ahram*, said the Middle East could "explode in mutiny and revolt ... All the elements of a storm are gathering".

Mr Heikal was briefly imprisoned by Sadat for his criticism of Egyptian policy after the 1973 Middle East War, and later caused controversy with his 1992 book *Illusions of Triumph*, in which he argued that the Allied victory over Iraq in the Gulf War would exacerbate tensions between the West and the Arab world in the long run.

In his latest polemic, *Secret Channels*, he argues that the Israeli-Palestinian accords amount to an "unjust peace" comparable with Versailles after the First World War. "Every Middle East initiative has been based on finding a way for the Arabs to surrender with a flag of dignity," Mr Heikal said in an interview. "The peace of Oslo maximised Israeli gains. The Palestinians did not get an independent



Arab leaders have failed to solve the economic and social tensions in their own countries, a leading Egyptian author tells Richard Owen

state, nor did they get any control over Jerusalem. I do not think the deal will survive for long."

The danger to Middle East stability stems mainly, Mr Heikal argues, from the failure of Arab leaders to solve economic and social tensions in their own countries. "The rulers of the Arab world have all been in power too long," he said. "The youngest of them — Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya — has been at the helm for 26 years. Yet 60 per cent of the Arab population is below the age of 18. So here you have an explosive mix — permanence of power at the top, and social and economic turbulence underneath."

Mr Heikal pointed to Saudi Arabia, where the stroke suffered by King Fahd a month ago led this week to a "temporary" transfer of power to his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah. The real threat to the King, he said, stemmed not from Islamic hotheads but from the growing middle class, which was created by

least the semblance of Arab unity, of Arab nationalism. Now even that is gone. There is a dearth of ideas."

Some Arab leaders have tried to meet the Islamic challenge on its own ground. "One-third of Egyptian TV programmes are now religious. But you cannot fight the sheikhs this way: they will always win. They know better than the people on television. All you do is to create an atmosphere in which they advance further."

Anti-Islamic propaganda is ineffective, and police crackdowns have only limited impact, "because what we are witnessing is not really a religious revolt at all, but a social and economic one. Arab leaders must tackle the sources of poverty on which fundamentalism feeds."

Western democracy was not the answer, he said — or, rather, empty imitations of Western institutions like the rubber-stamp Saudi "Consultative Council". "As far as I know it has met twice. It was done to satisfy the West that Saudi Arabia was reforming democratically. Democracy in the British or European sense is a luxury for us Arabs."

Secret Channels by Mohamed Heikal is published on January 8 by HarperCollins at £25.

Saudi change raises doubts over Western arms contracts

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE change at the top of the Saudi ruling family, with King Fahd taking a back seat after 13 years, will create new uncertainties over the defence and security relationship forged with the West before anseizure in 1991 Gulf War.

Any Western arms contracts, particularly with the United States, Britain and France, lie at the heart of the relationship with the Saudi Royal Family.

Although Saudi arms-buying policy has been based for some years on a mix-and-match approach, involving a number of exporting countries, the United States and Britain have been the chief beneficiaries. The historic Al-Yamamah 1 arms deal, signed with Britain in 1986, and Al-Yamamah 2, signed in 1988, while should run for years, could eventually be worth at least £20 billion from the sale of fighter aircraft, *Phantom*, *PC-9* trainers, minesweepers and ammunition, with training and airfield construction.

These deals were achieved,

despite stiff competition from America, as a result of hard-sell tactics, long-standing contacts and a personal rapport with King Fahd. Baroness Thatcher, when she was Prime Minister, John Major, and a queue of senior Cabinet ministers have visited King Fahd over the past ten years to keep the arms export agreement on course.

The importance of the relationship with King Fahd cannot be underestimated. After the Gulf War, Saudi Arabia was anxious to avoid becoming a permanent base for King

Western ground forces, despite pressure from the Allies. It took a personal telephone call from Mr Major to King Fahd to persuade the Saudi monarch to allow six RAF Tornados to remain based at Dhahran as part of the combat air patrol of Iraq south of the 32nd parallel.

It will be some time before Britain and other countries dependent on Saudi Arabia for arms exports can enjoy the same close personal relations with Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, who is said to be less pro-Western than King

Al-Yamamah, and the contracts won by America and France (mostly warships), have survived despite Saudi budget cuts after pressure on the kingdom's economy. Some items from Al-Yamamah 2 have not yet materialised, including a possible order for combat helicopters from Westland, and more minesweepers. There are also hopes for a sale of British Challenger 2 tanks and Warrior armoured fighting vehicles, although 315 US Abrams M1A2 tanks are on order.

With British Aerospace as the prime contractor, present orders involve Tornados, three minesweepers being built by Vosper Thornycroft, 155mm artillery shells and *Phantom* trainer aircraft.

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Thinking thin for spring



With temperatures recently at an all-time low, it may seem odd to be looking at the new season's styles. But rather like the holiday industry, the fashion business functions with its finger permanently on the fast-forward button.

The Times asked leading names in the fashion world to gaze into the near future to foretell what looks will be hot and what the must-have items will be this year.

The overall mood appears to be pared-down and pin-thin. Silhouettes stay close to the body, and superfluous detail is dispensed with. The accent is on shape, colour and fabric: black and white offset with sharp citrus hues (lime green, lemon yellow, orange) or any

shade of blue from sky to midnight. Pattern is, once again, big news.

Mat jersey makes a comeback, as does shantung. Both were favourites in the 1970s. Nylon and polyester are now elevated to the high-fashion catwalk as designers take inspiration from the dowdy and downtrodden—also known as "trailer-park chic".

The cleverer designers have simply refocused their vision by re-evaluating and repackaging the classics. They offer a wardrobe which is both comfortable and easy, certainly something to look forward to.

DONNA KARAN

Fashion designer

Hot new looks: body-hugging, bias-cut, hipster pants and skirts (any length— it's up to

the woman who wears them); midriff shells (button-back, sleeveless tops revealing the midriff); leather pieces; colour-new fabrics—stretch synthetics, glazed linen, shantung and stretch jersey.

Personal must-haves: items a white leather jacket or coat, bias-cut trousers, jersey shirt and skirt, kaftan tunic, cashmere sweaters, a citrus, double-faced clutch coat, and an evening wrap.

ALEXANDRA SHULMAN

Editor, *Vogue*

This spring's fashion must-haves will be the button-through dress which can be worn a million ways and found everywhere, from international designers to the high street. The low-heeled Gucci slingback is winning, too.

FLORENCE TORRENS

PR, Russell & Bromley

The new flat shoe is a must for 1996: wearable and utterly modern. Square-cut with a low block heel, it is the wear-anywhere pump. To thong are the summer sandals, always square cut & block heeled. They put toes on display with the newest colour for nails: white. The shoulder bag makes a comeback. Best are slim shapes with "midi"-length straps designed to fit neatly under the arm. Anything in citrus brights.

BETTY JACKSON

Fashion designer

What will make headlines in 1996? The return of the long skirt— and new, modern fabrics. What new looks will be hot in the new year? Simple, streamlined shapes with minimal details: monochrome and bold blocks of colour, flat sandals. Must-have items: wrap sunglasses and the streamlined zip windcheater jacket.

GIANNI VERSACE

Fashion designer

Revitalised classics. Long forgotten garments such as the shantung can be reclaimed with a new attitude and earn their place of honour in women's wardrobes both for day and evening wear. Black and white are the indisputable stars with flashes of bold, almost fluorescent colours. Fabrics will be light, diaphanous, transparent and feminine to emphasis this "soft and light" style.

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

PAUL FRITH

Fashion designer

Headlines: showgirls and strippers in sequins and beads, pearls and bows with sassy singhongs. Think Vegas and motels, sleazy neon and glitz. Taffeta for day. Polyester for evening. Must-haves: a lime satin, puff-sleeve shirt-dress, a fawn knee-length pencil skirt worn with a cashmere sleeveless top.

LISA ARMSTRONG

Associate editor, *Vogue*

The news now is in cut items—as opposed to entire looks—that will update existing clothes in your wardrobe. Gucci silver G hipster belt, the flat strap, U-shaped bag, the flat flip-flop.

GIANFRANCO FERRE

Fashion designer

Intentionally I fine-tuned my fashion vision even further this season, choosing to eliminate all overlapping, encumbering elements. For daytime: a black stretch suit, a jacket that naturally defines the body, tapered pants or long skirt. For evening: essential tunics in essential colours (white, blue and red) made glamorous by embroidery and sequin pavilions.

CLEMENTE RIBEIRO

Fashion design team

Headlines: bold use of prints, clashing florals, stripes and checks. Off-the-wall prints which look like 1950s-1970s wallpaper designs. Synthetic chic: the gentrification of polyester and nylon. Must-haves: striped cashmere twister suit with a shirt which doubles as a jacket, diagonal check skirt and stretch cashmere mismatching top, floral print

Shape of things to come: **DONNA KARAN**, centre, offers an evening wrap which is simply gorgeous. Karan has pared down her summer collection into elemental essentials.

RALPH LAUREN, left, steals the show with his shantung silk shirtdress. The button-through dress is this season's must-have and will be available at every price.

JIL SANDER, right, makes glamorous basics the basis for this summer's wardrobe.

Photographs by CHRIS MOORE

shirtdress. All these items make up the two newest directional fashion looks: suburban couture and 1970s housewife chic.

KARL LAGERFELD

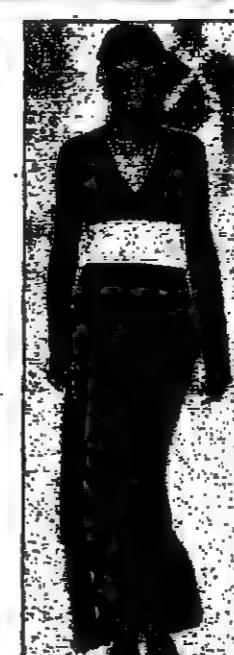
Fashion designer

Colour is back and minimalism will lead to boredom in the end. For the rest, let's wait for the collections.

GLENDA BAILEY

Editor, *Marie Claire*

Anything in shantung, especially Ralph Lauren's shirtdress in blue or dark oyster. Whistles has done a more affordable version.



GUCCI, left, has accessories to die for—the hipster belt, the sandal and shoulder bag. Centre, **CALVIN KLEIN**'s bold black and white silhouette. Right, **BETTY JACKSON**'s streamlined jacket.

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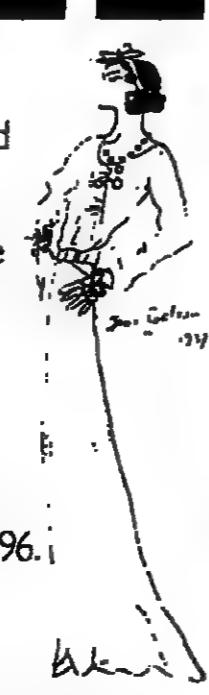
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JANUARY
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Magnus Linklater and Giles Whittell in Los Angeles on a controversial theory that emotional intelligence can affect success in later life

What is intelligence? Is it something that can simply be measured by IQ tests, or does it depend on emotions and the way they are controlled? A new book, which has leapt to the top of the bestseller lists in America, explores the way we behave and what that reveals about our abilities. Next week, *Emotional Intelligence*, by Daniel Goleman, is published in Britain.

The best way to understand "emotional intelligence" is to consider a group of four-year-old children which is offered a tempting choice: they can have, as a treat, one marshmallow each; what is more, they can have it now—instant gratification. On the other hand, by waiting until their teacher returns from running an errand, they can have two marshmallows.

It is a battle between impulse and restraint, desire and self-control. Some of the children hesitate momentarily, then, as soon as the teacher has left the room, grab their single marshmallows. Others, however, wait for what must seem an endless 15 to 20 minutes, covering their eyes.

Some people have the emotional armoury to succeed in life, no matter how high their IQ

resting their heads on their arms, talking to themselves to distract them from the temptation in front of them. Finally, they win their reward. The teacher returns, and two marshmallows are theirs.

But this experiment, carried out in the 1960s at a pre-school on the Stanford University campus in America, has gone further. Researchers followed up the children 12 to 14 years later when they were adolescents graduating from high school. They found dramatic social differences between the instant-eaters and the delayers. The ones who had resisted temptation as four-year-olds seemed to have built those qualities of self-restraint. They were more socially competent, more mature, more personally effective than the instant-eaters. They seemed better able to cope with the frustrations of life and to be on more relaxed terms with teachers and pupils. What is more, when they were tested later as they prepared to go on to university, they were more likely to score well in exams.

The so-called Mischel Test—named after the psychologist Walter Mischel—is just one of the examples cited by Goleman, a writer on science for *The New York Times*. He argues for a more effective definition of what constitutes

Why your child's EQ can matter more than IQ



intelligence. Goleman claims to find it in the emotional armoury with which certain people are equipped, and which allows them to succeed in life in a way which others cannot match, however high their IQ. He cites the example of graduates and school-leavers with impressive lists of academic qualifications who fail to make the grade in later life, whether in business, profession or personally. In contrast, there are those with fewer intellectual attainments who nevertheless become leaders.

Goleman's book is seen as a firm riposte to *The Bell Curve*, the notorious work by Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray, which argued that IQ is genetic and varies from race to race.

Whether Goleman has stumbled on anything new is doubtful. From Aristotle to B.F. Skinner, via Erasmus and Nietzsche, philosophers and behavioural psychologists have argued about the nature of intelligence and attempted to define its origins. On one level, Goleman is adding just another layer to the "nature v nurture" argument, exploring the formative periods of our lives and tracing the origins of our varying characters back to our genetic roots and the way in which we have been treated in childhood.

But his findings are published at an interesting time. Arguably, we worry more today about the values which govern society and the uncertainty of the younger generation than we have ever done. We extend the educational range of our children, but seem to equip them less and less with the qualities they need to succeed in life. We expand the number of university places available, but find that a growing number of students drop out of their courses or fail to gain degrees. We cannot understand how, in an age of high unemployment, companies complain that they are unable to find enough recruits with the basic competence to tackle a career.

Goleman quotes the findings of an international survey of parents and teachers which shows "a worldwide trend for

the present generation of children to be more troubled emotionally than the last: more lonely and depressed, more angry and unruly, more nervous and prone to worry, more impulsive and aggressive". He believes this stems from the growing inability of families and schools to cope with the emotional as well as the academic education of children, and he believes that far more time should be spent at an early age on instilling such qualities as self-awareness, self-control, the arts of listening, of resolving conflict and co-operating with others.

Where he is less convincing is in identifying the physical properties of the brain which determine our emotional character and then venturing an explanation about how they

passing the neocortex while it is still coming to a decision. The impulse that prompts a panicking bank-robbber to shoot a hesitating clerk, or drives a passer-by to plunge into an icy river to save a drowning child, comes, he says, direct from the amygdala. He calls it "emotional hijacking".

LeDoux believes it offers a rapid way to turn on emotions. "But it's a quick-and-dirty process; the cells are fast but not precise." That is, the reaction may be speedy, but it may be wrong. Goleman goes on to argue that in some people the neocortex is more easily bypassed than in others, and that this explains why they overreact to provocations or emergencies, while others handle them calmly. This is dangerous territory, suggesting that the brain is subject to genetic imperfections which can perhaps be altered by some kind of lobotomy.

Goleman is on safer ground when he argues that achieving a balance between the emotional and the thinking parts of our characters is the key to reaching intelligent decisions. We should, he says, learn to understand our emotions and use them, rather than be dominated by them. This concept, too, is familiar ground: "know thyself" is, after all, a maxim that can be traced back to ancient Greece. Goleman quotes Antoine de St Exupéry, the author of *The Little Prince*: "It is with the heart that one sees rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

Goleman concludes that emotional intelligence should be applied in the office as well as in the home or the classroom. The age of the overbearing, arrogant management approach is over, he says, to be replaced by a more sensitive style. The "jungle fighter" boss, who rules by fear and manipulation, gets less out of the workforce than the manager who sets out to establish a close rapport with the employees. "The jungle fighter is out of date," says a Harvard Business School psychologist quoted by Goleman. "The virtuous in interpersonal skills

is the corporate future." Or, as one management consultant cited in the book says: "Stress makes people stupid."

Central to Goleman's argument is the idea that the rules which govern the emotions, and can therefore condition intelligence, can be taught. He believes that schools ought to take on board the idea of teaching "emotional literacy" to children who do not receive it in their own homes, and who may, therefore, be unable to cope with pressure in the classroom or the playground.

They may be the bullies, the disruptive ones, or possibly the victims—the shy and retiring types who simply retreat from school life. "Whether or not there is a class explicitly devoted to emotional literacy may matter far less than how the lessons are taught," he writes.

There is perhaps no subject where the quality of the teacher matters so much, since how a teacher handles the class is in itself a model, a drama lesson in emotional competence—or the lack thereof.

Whenever a teacher responds to one student, 20 or 30 others will learn a lesson."

Not, perhaps, a startlingly original conclusion, but one which any education system, whether emotionally intelligent or not, has to take on board if schools are to cope with today's pupils in a new age of anxiety.

● **Emotional Intelligence:** Why it can matter more than IQ, by Daniel Goleman, will be published on January 11 by Bloomsbury, £16.99.



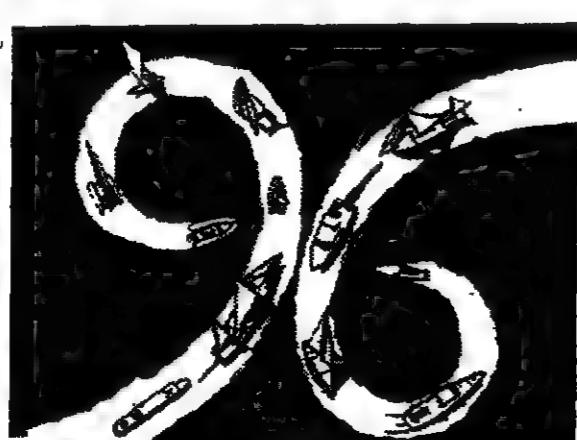
Architect Richard Rogers shows spatial skills



Dancer Darcy Bussell has kinesthetic ability



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Ireland's ceasefire is over

The IRA is killing more people than before, says Kevin Myers

Iet us go carefully again over the words issued at midnight on August 31, 1994. "Recognising the potential of the current situation and in order to enhance the democratic peace process and underline our definitive commitment to its success the leadership of Oglach na hEireann [the IRA] have decided that as of midnight, Wednesday 31 August, there will be a complete cessation of military operations. All our military units have been instructed accordingly."

Because the IRA did not use the word "permanent", Unionists complained that "complete" was inadequate. Not at all, both Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein-IRA repeatedly assured everybody. "Complete" was good enough — *complete* in all its meanings.

Last year, the SDLP leader John Hume, who had done much to promote the ceasefire, exasperatedly told a television interviewer who was pressing him on this, "You don't understand, it's over."

It is not. What is over is the ceasefire as understood by everyone that bright morning of September 1, 1994. Nobody likes saying this because it appears to be unhealthy to announce such an unpleasant truth. But it is so.

The IRA declared a "complete cessation of military operations". It did not exclude any category of human being from its ceasefire: it did not say that the war against the British or the Unionists alone was over, but that social miscreants beware: it declared a *complete* end to military activity.

In the past couple of months the IRA has murdered seven Catholic men in Northern Ireland. Each one of these killings required a resumption of military activity. So the complete cessation of military activity is over. The IRA is in business again, even while Senator George Mitchell's disarmament commission is doing its best to gun the gun out of Northern Ireland's political culture.

The problem is that the gun has been present throughout the history of both Irish states. The state of Northern Ireland grew from an armed conspiracy to prevent all-Ireland Home Rule 84 years ago. The Irish Republic grew from the barrel of the gun. The Sinn Fein-IRA memory is perverse and wildly selective, but this truth it clings to ferociously. What they are others were.

Meanwhile, Unionists have been observing the melancholy procession of coffins leaving Catholic ghettos and asking, "What sort of ceasefire is this?" One Northern Ireland politician went so far as to say, "The choice is clear and unambiguous: either Sinn Fein or the IRA respect the wishes of the Irish people and end their violence now — totally and permanently — or they are removed from any further involvement in the process of creating peace and a new political dispensation."

These tough words were spoken not by a Northern Unionist but a Northern nationalist.

The author is a columnist for The Irish Times. Alan Caren will appear tomorrow.

THE MOST senior woman in the Foreign Office is on the point of leaving, after turning down the chance to become British Ambassador to Bonn. Pauline Neville-Jones, 55, political director, is said

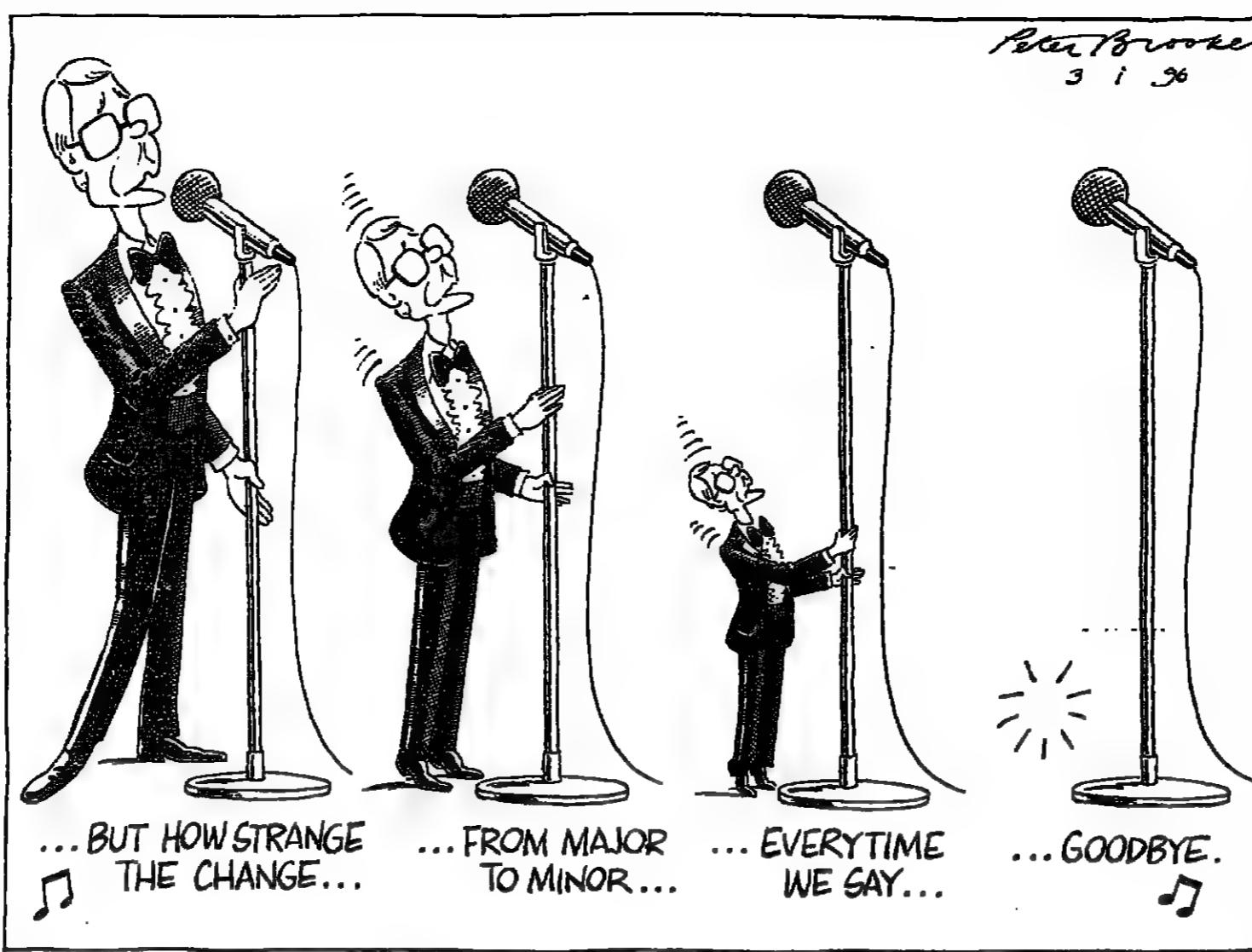
to be furious that she was not offered Paris, which has been taken by Michael Jay, a cerebral chap six years her junior.

Those who have known her for years say that the efficient, strong-willed manner in which she conducts her affairs was invaluable in dealing with the turbulent Boeians. But it hasn't proved sufficiently emollient for the niceties of diplomatic life.

For her part, Neville-Jones has perhaps had enough of what she may regard as a male-dominated club. She is expected to resign shortly to pursue a new career in a field where her robust attitude will be better valued.

There had been hopes in Downing Street that a woman would soon be given a major ambassadorial post, but the breakthrough will now have to wait. It was not until 1946, after a number of women had served in temporary posts with distinction during the war, that women were recruited to administrative grades. But as late as 1972 they were required to resign on marriage.

Members of the diplomatic old guard argue that Neville-Jones was given her chance in Bonn but



Time for an election

If John Major thinks he can hang on, he should think again. Sitting out will not improve his chances

I recall a Sunday school teacher who had to answer the same question each week. "Please miss, if God is so good why is the world so evil?" The teacher did not subscribe to the Manichaean heresy. Her response would have won plaudits from a Downing Street spin-doctor. "The world is not as bad as television says... Disasters are sent to test us... God is getting His message across... Come Judgment Day the feelgood factor will bring final victory." I marvelled childishly at her ingenuity and wondered how much God was paying her.

John Major faces the same line of questioning, at least from himself. He tries so hard, yet every day he reads the front pages and feel his eyelids droop over his Weetabix. The bowl seems full of piranhas, defying every little dare he erects against them. His spoon cannot scoop up one mouthful of Weetabix that does not have piranhas in it. He means well. He really cares. There is nothing honest John would not do to give a guy a break, to win a smile and raise a vote. But all he can see are Emma Nicholson and Spanish trawlers and Michael Portillo and water board chairmen and piranhas. They may be God's creatures, but why are they all in his cereal bowl? It is unfair.

No general election is over until it is over. This year, many a clever pundit will explain that Tony Blair can still collapse and the Tories bring down a coup. We shall learn that Labour has a talent for alienating the electorate and has won just three full-term elections since the war. We shall learn of the unreliability of voting-intention questions in the opinion polls: of the pro-Government "swing" during campaigns; of feelgood factors just round the corner and of Mr Blair and his team becoming more shopsoiled the longer they are left on the shelf. In 1996, we shall be told, Mr Major has many stages on which to shine. He might find glory in Ulster, in Bosnia, even in monetary union.

All these factors can be reckoned to favour the Tories, and thus make it worth hanging on in a minority administration. Such arguments are cited by the grey-suited ones who gather round Mr Major's fire of an evening to swap jokes about Brian Mawhinney and tell each other the Good News about the Tory record that evil newspapers will not print. The Prime Minister's entourage has acquired some of the middle-brow camaraderie of Wilson's "Wincarnis"

kitchen cabinet. Its loyalty must bring a tear to the boss's eye. His reaction is: "Why spoil it? As long as the whips can sell some honours and deliver a periodic confidence vote, the team can hang on. It may be "in office but not in power", but office has its compensations.

This does not wash. For a progressive recovery in Mr Major's electoral prospects into 1997 to be plausible, some desperate assumptions are required. His Government must be ready to lose its majority with dignity after another defection or by-election, and then form an Ulster Unionist coalition with equal dignity. I find this near inconceivable.

It must be able to pass measures such as the Budget without substantive defeat or see its economic strategy ruined. Labour yesterday promised to make this difficult.

The Cabinet must be ready to abandon any contentious measure opposed by even the smallest handful of disaffected backbenchers. This must render most legislation unpassable without Labour support — the Divorce Bill might be an instance.

Mr Major has disappointed too many backbenchers to expect any resurgent loyalty this year. Emma Nicholson was not famous for malice. What bitterness and frustration can have driven her to the savage timing of her defection this Christmas?

There may be just half a dozen MPs of like mind, but that is all it would take to wipe out Mr Major's paper majority. On most substantive votes, that majority must have gone already. There must be dozens of Tories with little hope of office or of re-election who wonder why they should postpone the start of a new career until the middle of 1997.

Meanwhile the dreary steeples of Fermanagh and Tyrone will again cast their shadow over Westminster. Mr Major must stall peace talks in Northern Ireland beyond all reasonable pause. The IRA decommis-

sioning row is not some farcicalness on the British Government's part. Without it, at least some Unionists will simply walk out of any peace talks. Indeed they may not even walk in. This crisis was bound to come sooner or later. Mr Major must now seek frantic postponement, if only because the official Unionists will not want to be outflanked in intransigence by the Paisleyites. Whether this stalling can be sustained throughout 1996, and with a Cabinet patently kowtowing to the Unionists, is surely doubtful. Cardinal Cahal Daly warned the Government as much on Sunday.

By early next year, the Government could have two other diplomatic defeats on its hands: the collapse of the Bosnian ceasefire after the promised withdrawal of Nato units, and a failure to halt the introduction of a Franco-German Euro-currency. The first may be postponed at great cost in troops and money, but the second cannot. Mr Major may believe he can expose Mr Blair's weakness for a Euro-currency. But it is unlikely that this will compensate for another year of guerrilla war from his own Eurosceptics. Many of the latter will be demob happy and all but beyond the whips' control.

I were a Tory party manager. I would wish fervently that 1996 could be ripped out of the calendar. It promises to be a dog of a year. A sequence of banana skins, leaks, ministerial scandals, enforced resignations, rebellions, turns, defeats and confidence votes. Every policy will be torn apart, from rail privatisation and "care in the community" to nursery vouchers and lottery profits. Money will be squandered and tax cuts blown in buying off teachers and nurses. The whips' office will seize power from the Cabinet and the Policy Unit. Life in Downing Street will be hell.

Hung parliaments delight journalists. They foster their view of politics as a congeries of blackmail, hard drinking, corruption and funny goings-on in lavatories. Eatanswill comes to Westminster and stays for the duration. We know what it is like: it is like James Callaghan's 1978-79 administration, a miasma of conspiracies, payoffs and deals. Such parliaments do no good for any government. Ministers appear hogned and vacillating. Anarchy is blamed on them, not on the anarchists. Sir Edward Heath learnt that in 1974.

The Queen's Speech announced the programme on which Mr Major intends to govern for the last full session of this Parliament. It was a lacklustre affair, allegedly crafted to "put Labour on the spot" on education and immigration. Its intention, in other words, was not so much good government as good opposition to the Opposition. This compliment to Mr Blair's political sovereignty was gratefully accepted.

Judging by Prime Minister's Question Time before Christmas, more time is now spent cross-examining Labour's programme than to the Government. Shadow ministers work under rigid cabinet responsibility. They may make no pledges, specify no policies, and above all commit no money beyond the current Treasury planning total. The Opposition is behaving as if the keys of the Exchequer were already in its pocket. If Mr Major is in office but not in power but not in office.

We all know that a duel is due to take place between Mr Major and Mr Blair. It need not take place for 15 months, but even the most sympathetic Tory must be appalled at the prospect of that wait. It implies an election campaign longer even than the ridiculed American presidential trail. The next government must in 1997 negotiate the future relations of Britain with Europe. If it is to be led by Mr Major he must have a new mandate. If Mr Blair is to be prime minister, he should start as soon as possible on the learning curve from his present native Euro-enthusiasm to the necessary realism.

The Government found it hard enough to govern with a small majority last year; this year will be worse. There is no good reason for postponing a general election beyond this summer — nor even that Mr Major is thereby more likely to win. He is not.

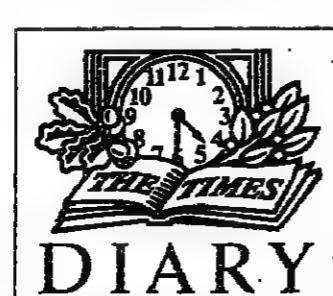
Simon Jenkins

Between our densely populated areas, space remains for magnificent scenery. Byron remarked that there are finer views in Derbyshire than any in Greece. The Atlantic Ocean's mighty waves, beating on Cornish rocks and cliffs and surrounding the fairytale St Michael's Mount on the passage from Land's End to the Lizard, are uninterrupted by land until America is reached. It was from tall Poldhu, above Gunnwaloe and its early-15th-century church, built into rocks on the shore, to which I went often as a child, that Marconi sent his first radio messages from the Old World to the New in 1901. I remember his Wireless Telegraphy Station, demolished by some blundered bureaucrat in 1933.

Perhaps the sweetest and most precious flower to grow in Britain is the English language. Its soil has been the speech of the varied races arriving here during thousands of years. Their mingling has produced the world's most serviceable and poetic mode of expression. The language of Shakespeare and Milton, of Shaw and Wilde, of Keats and Yeats, of Dylan Thomas and Aneurin Bevan, of Dickens and Scott of Newington and Rutherford, of Adam Smith and Hume, is readily adaptable to every purpose. It is no miracle that English is the principal conduit of commerce, science, industry and the arts internationally. The British gift of tolerance and assimilation of differing groups has made it so.

In a land where beauty ceaselessly greets the eye and the ear, with a temperate climate which we most prize when hit by extremes of heat or cold, who would not be content? Apart from those stricken by tragedy, none but crotchety misogynists and manhaters, confirmed pessimists and grumbler, or animal-rights activists, the envious, the ne'er-do-wells. Thank God I am a typical Englishman — that is, half Welsh, a quarter Cornish and a quarter from Staffordshire, where my family lived for centuries and where I shall be buried, among the tombs of my ancestors in Weobly, beside the little church rebuilt in 1803 by James Wyatt.

Undiplomatic



ring the American brat-pack actor Keanu Reeves, *A Walk in the Clouds* concerns a beautiful GI in the Second World War (Reeves) who takes a fancy to a young Italian girl.

The concern is that Keanu's earlobe is pierced, and noticeably so. "At that time ear-piercing wasn't done and he might not have been allowed to join the service," grumbles an American veteran.

The Royal British Legion is equally dismissive. "A pierced ear — never mind an earring — would be looked down on. Chap would never have survived boot camp."

Hunstanton Golf Club, near Sandringham in Norfolk, was relieved of an annual chore last week — it didn't have to tee up a Christmas golfing partner for Prince Andrew. "We usually arrange for somebody to play with him," explained a source at the club. "He asked to play this year but we sent him away because of the weather."

Look 'ere lad

GIMLET-EYED military folk are up in arms about a new film star-

Contact has been made between two jilted Conservative Associations. Stratford-on-Avon, abandoned by Alan Howard for the Labour Party, has sent its commiserations by fax to Devon West and Torridge, which lost Emma Nicholson. "It was very sweet of them," blinked a tearful Torridge Tory.

Tricky stuff

THE ABOLITION of Westminster's Select Committee on Employment is to be marked with a wake, at which the star turn will be the committee's pedantic chairman, Greville Janner. Beer and sandwiches will be served in the Commons; then Janner, a member of the Magic Circle, will take the floor for a conjuring show.

The tricks will start after TV viewers have planned to reveal to the Princess of Wales. But he has changed his scheme because of the flood, which took place as he was recording in London. "I had drawn up my own chart for 1996, and everything was looking good from mid-January onwards," he says. "But I knew I had to get through a double aspect of Neptune and Mars, which signified water and disjoined energy coming together."

Taurus
THE PREPOSTEROUS planetary pundit Russell Grant sadly failed to predict the effects the cold snap would have on his astrological charts. They have been ruined by a



Roly-poly Grant

flood, caused by burst pipes at his home in Lancashire.

The cherubic soothsayer planned to reveal to TV viewers what the new year stars held for the Princess of Wales. But he has changed his scheme because of the flood, which took place as he was recording in London. "I had drawn up my own chart for 1996, and everything was looking good from mid-January onwards," he says. "But I knew I had to get through a double aspect of Neptune and Mars, which signified water and disjoined energy coming together."

P.H.S

God's own blessed country

Woodrow Wyatt
finds contentment close at hand

We cannot sorrow perpetually over all the world's woes without falling into debilitating despair. Feelings of guilt for evils we are helpless to cure are self-indulgence — unless we devote ourselves to practical aid like the Irish Sister, Ethel Normoyle, praised in the Queen's Christmas Day speech for her work in South Africa. As most of us are unsuited to Sister Ethels, we should not try to emulate her in our minds as we watch on television, or hear on the wireless, the brutalities of Bosnia, the sufferings of the starving in Rwanda or the plight of countless victims of fighting all round the globe. Before instant communications, such things were common, but people's balance was not disturbed by an irrational belief that they could do something. Civilisation began less than 100,000 years ago. We would be happier and of more use if we dwelt less on its failures and more on its successes. For those of us who were born, or live, on these sceptred isles, evidence of the latter surrounds us.

One side of my garden is a few yards away from the nursery ground at Lord's. Sometimes a batsman edges a ball over the top of the nets into the flowerbeds, a cheerful reminder of that most civilised of all games, which could have been invented only by the English. Its respect for fair play, keeping a straight bat — and many other such phrases — have spread to those countries blessed by the touch of English civilisation. Though they may quarrel over it occasionally, cricket binds together Indians and South Africans, Pakistanis and Australians. There are few sights as redolent of the best of human nature as joyous West Indian crowds good-humouredly and appreciatively applauding their opponents and cheering the feats of their own side. No country with cricket as one of its national games has ever become communist. If Marx had examined cricket as closely as he did statistics in the British Museum Reading Room, the history of the 20th century might have been different.

The British inherit the graces of Greece, where the civilising properties of games were first realised, which is why almost all major games now played originated here. Though we would like still to be supreme at them, our unrancorous acceptance that others now beat us at our own games is very civil.

A cathedral cloister in a summer's dusk, its great tower or spire triumphant in the close, melts the most frozen heart. Inside an ancient cathedral, the religious and irreligious feel the strength of the human attempt to be good coming down through the ages. I do not know what a soul is, but if there is one it is present there. Village greens: towns with market squares overlooked by houses of architecture from across the centuries; a Scottish glen in the gloaming; the superb streets of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dublin, with classical houses and parks not far away; Caernarfon Castle and the Menai Straits — look where you will, the battle scars of these isles are covered by the gentle moss of time.

Between our densely populated areas, space remains for magnificent scenery. Byron remarked that there are finer views in Derbyshire than any in Greece. The Atlantic Ocean's mighty waves, beating on Cornish rocks and cliffs and surrounding the fairytale St Michael's Mount on the passage from Land's End to the Lizard, are uninterrupted by land until America is reached. It was from tall Poldhu, above Gunnwaloe and its early-15th-century church, built into rocks on the shore, to which I went often as a child, that Marconi sent his first radio messages from the Old World to the New in 1901. I remember his Wireless Telegraphy Station, demolished by some blundered bureaucrat in 1933.

Perhaps the sweetest and most precious flower to grow in Britain is the English language. Its soil has been the speech of the varied races arriving here during thousands of years. Their mingling has produced the world's most serviceable and poetic mode of expression. The language of Shakespeare and Milton, of Shaw and Wilde, of Keats and Yeats, of Dylan Thomas and Aneurin Bevan, of Dickens and Scott of Newington and Rutherford, of Adam Smith and Hume, is readily adaptable to every purpose. It is no miracle that English is the principal conduit of commerce, science, industry and the arts internationally. The British gift of tolerance and assimilation of differing groups has made it so.

In a land where beauty ceaselessly greets the eye and the ear, with a temperate climate which we most prize when hit by extremes of heat or cold, who would not be content? Apart from those stricken by tragedy, none but crotchety misogynists and manhaters, confirmed pessimists and grumbler, or animal-rights activists, the envious, the ne'er-do-wells. Thank God I am a typical Englishman — that is, half Welsh, a quarter Cornish and a quarter from Staffordshire, where my family lived for centuries and where I shall be buried, among the tombs of my ancestors in Weobly, beside the little church rebuilt in 1803 by James Wyatt.



Pauline Neville-Jones



THE ARAFAT VOTE

'Free' Palestinians deserve free elections

In just over a fortnight, the Palestinian people will take an historic step, irrespective of the fine detail in their accords to date with Israel (irrespective, even, of firm assurances to the contrary by the Israeli Government) that step will take them on the road to statehood. On January 20, the Palestinian people will vote to elect their *rais*, or 'leader', and an 88-member national council. For the first time they will be ruled by men and women of their own election – by an accountable, democratically-elected Palestinian administration. They will, in the process, be the only people in the Arab world to live under rules that resemble democracy as we in the West know it.

That, at least, is the theory; for some it is also the passion. But the early truth, as our correspondent reports today from Jerusalem, has disappointed those anxious for genuine democracy in the Gaza Strip and the 'liberated' Palestinian portions of the West Bank. Yasser Arafat, chairman of both the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the interim Palestinian Authority, has shown little taste so far for the spirit of multi-party democracy, and complaints against him, which mount by the day, are made as fiercely by ordinary Palestinians themselves as by disconcerted foreign observers.

The European Union – which is, in fact, paying for the Palestinian elections – is not, so far, impressed. The head of the EU election unit, Carl Lidbom, has responded fiercely to a series of high-handed procedural changes by Mr Arafat to the rules for the elections. Mr Lidbom published a trenchant statement on Monday, calling on the leader of the PLO 'to take urgent steps to try to build public and international confidence in the election process'. *Enough is enough*, the statement was entitled, and the EU's choice of language is apt.

The Palestinian election commission, which will oversee the conduct of the polls, is headed by Abu Mazen, a close associate of Mr Arafat. That does not augur well for its objectivity, in what could prove to be a profoundly contentious election. And there is more in an arbitrary decision, clearly designed to work to the advantage of the PLO. Mr Arafat has subtracted a week from the time permitted to candidates for their election campaigns. Those challenging Mr Arafat, particularly the independents, have been affected badly by this fiat.

Directly related to the elections – and an important indicator of the ill-health of Palestinian democracy – is Mr Arafat's attitude to freedom of the press. Newspapers have been shut at will by the Palestinian Authority, and journalists harassed, ever since it took control of areas returned by Israel under the Oslo accord. The latest example of Mr Arafat's autocracy reveals the dangerous crudity of a panjandrum. Maher al-Alamni, a senior editor and columnist of *al-Quds*, the largest Palestinian daily, was imprisoned for six days for failing to place a glowing story about the 'leader' on his front page.

There was already a large photograph of himself on the front page; but this did not, apparently, satisfy Mr Arafat's thirst for panegyric. Mr Arafat has no need to enforce his superiority in such a suffocating way; he has secured from Hamas, the hard-line Islamic Palestinian opposition, a promise not to disrupt the polls; he has no serious challenger for the post of *rais*; and the Israelis, whether from a preference for the man they know or a desire to stay out of the murky depths of internal Palestinian politics, have kept a careful distance. He should not, and need not, persist with a pattern of behaviour that will only harm the interests of the people for whom he has fought.

THE UNION GAVOTTE

Trimble keeps all Westminster on its toes

The Ulster Unionists want to keep everybody guessing. First came the message that they had no intention of voting against the Conservatives on a confidence motion. Now, says John Taylor, their deputy leader, each issue will be taken on its merits, and his party will not automatically support the Tories. Uncertainty is the Unionists' strongest weapon: and they are exploiting it to the full. Within the next few months, it is possible, even likely, that the Conservatives will have lost their majority. Neither the Liberal Democrats nor the nationalists – Scottish, Welsh or Northern Irish – can be relied on for help. The continuance of this Government therefore would depend most crucially on the Unionists.

Such support would once have been taken for granted. Whatever the Unionists' qualms about an administration that had signed the Anglo-Irish agreement, Labour's united Ireland policy was bound to be worse. But the replacement of John Smith with Tony Blair as Labour leader and of Kevin McNamara with Mo Mowlam as Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, has brought Labour's policy on Northern Ireland into line with the Tories. New Labour has studiously supported all the Government's moves in the peace process.

Some Labour supporters want a quick reward for this. Since there is nothing to choose between the two parties, they say, would not the Unionists be better off switching their support from a Prime Minister who looks like a lame duck to the man who is likely to be in Downing Street for at least the next five years? Mr Blair needs the Unionists as badly as Mr Major does. If a general election could be held quickly, a large Labour majority would be more likely. Mr Blair should surely, they argue, be prepared to make a few extra concessions to make this hope a reality.

Life in Northern Ireland is never, however, that simple. First, a Labour govern-

ment with a big majority would be bad news for the Unionists: they have maximum leverage in a hung Parliament and an interest in delaying the election in the hope that the Tories' popularity will improve. Secondly, as on so many other aspects of policy, there is still suspicion about Labour's real views: Mr Blair may perhaps differ not at all from Mr Major, but he has said little himself and exploited his grip of party discipline to stifle dissent. This state of affairs cannot be taken for granted in a government whose Cabinet would contain fewer instinctive Unionists. Nor has Mr Blair been tested as a peace process negotiator.

More immediately, there is no concession that Labour could offer that would not disrupt the peace process. If such a concession did exist, Mr Major would almost certainly have offered it by now. The Unionists, by contrast, hope for solid financial and other favours from the Tories as the pork barrel is once again rolled Ulster's way.

David Trimble, leader of the Unionists,

does have some room for manoeuvre away from traditional support for the Tories. His main rivals, the McCartneyite Independent Unionists, are themselves close to new Labour; cries of 'betrayal' from them would ring somewhat hollow. But Mr Trimble must take care. Ulster's Westminster politicians may have taken their measure of New Labour but Unionist voters remain much more cautious. And if Mr Trimble could plausibly be accused of weakening the Union, Mr McCartney would have no compunction in saying so.

Hence the gavotte that is being danced.

The Conservatives do not yet need the Unionists, but they soon will. In the meantime Mr Trimble will want to keep them both generous and on their toes. Equally, he will want the best possible working relationship with Labour should it form the next administration. His aim is to keep all potential partners hopeful.

FRANK SAGITTARIUS

The world would be duller without those adventurers born under Sagittarius. Ian Botham did something typically Sagittarian – larger-than-life, visionary – at Headingley in 1981 that will be remembered for as long as polished willow strikes scuffed leather. Sagittarians have rampant egos and talent, but they succeed chiefly by daring to think bigger than the rest. They can see the silver lining in the dreariest cloud. Churchill's wartime speeches are unsurpassable examples of Sagittarian rhetoric.

And once Sagittarians have acquired the wealth, the fame, the glamour and the power that they believe to be their natural inheritance, they know how to flaunt it. If a Sagittarian becomes a movie mogul, like Walt Disney or Steven Spielberg, he sets out to enchant the whole world with his fantastical creations and unshakeable belief in happy endings. In the entertainment world, the Sagittarian's charisma is matched by a determination to be different, to stamp originality on the most mundane or unlikely material. The abrasive Jane Fonda, the thrusting Bette Midler, the waspish Noel Coward, the prickly Billy Connolly: these are essential showbiz Sagittarians.

As is our chosen representative, Francis Albert Sinatra, whose 80th birthday fell last month. When Sinatra broke loose from the

Tommy Dorsey Band in 1943 he not only asserted his own independence, he also changed forever the status of the popular singer. He unleashed a force that was going to transform the nature of mass culture: teenage hysteria. To understand the adulation surrounding Presley in the Fifties or the Beatles in the Sixties is impossible without reference to what happened to not-so-old Blue Eyes in the Forties.

But Sinatra's achievement goes deeper. He belonged to a supremely gifted generation of American vocalists that transformed the art of singing by a combination of superbly discreet technique and intense expression. Even in that select company, Sinatra went further. His very delivery put such a memorable mark on a song that the material seemed to become his property. Hundreds of singers have recorded the words 'I did it my way', a true anthem to the Sagittarian spirit. The only version that matters is Sinatra's.

What of the future? Sinatra's closest colleagues have fallen silent, and although he was in the charts only two years ago with his Duets album, he is now unlikely to perform again. This Sagittarian has finally hung up his bow and arrows. But we hope that he looks back on 1996 and croons 'it was a very good year' softly to himself.

Repercussions on an MP's defection

From Mr Michael Fabricant, MP for Staffordshire Mid (Conservative)

Sir, In the continuing turbulence following the defection of Emma Nicholson, accompanied by claims of 'lurches to the right' and of 'the most left-wing Cabinet a Conservative Prime Minister had chosen in living memory' (report, January 2; leading article and letters, January 1), it is becoming all too easy to categorise Conservative MPs by facile labelling.

Peter Riddell ('Why Emma couldn't say', January 1) was at least right in saying that her departure from the Conservative Party was the consequence of a 'complicated mixture' of reasons. Yet even he talks about 'pro-European, One-Nation' Conservatism as if the two were inseparable.

In defining the 'Tory right' it is important to separate out those who are also Euro-sceptic. Of course many of my loudest colleagues are both right wing and Euro-sceptic. But there are many others, including me, who while believing in prudent economic management of the nation also believe in the duty of care that any worthwhile state owes its citizens.

If this is the philosophy of the 'centre-right' it does not exclude the sharing of the gravest doubts about Britain's future in the European Union and its proposed single currency. Indeed, I would argue that any duty of care for our citizenry ought to include concern about Brussels and the extension of pan-European power at the expense of individual and state freedom to provide that care.

Emma Nicholson may or may not have been a One-Nation Tory. She is certainly enthusiastic about European Union and as justified by the Liberal Democrats' federal European policy. But the two do not necessarily go hand in glove and all political commentators – and their readers – should be aware of this. Euro-scepticism is not the sole province of the Tory far right.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FABRICANT,
House of Commons,
January 2

From Mr T. A. Backhouse

Sir, As a life-long Conservative voter I have been increasingly doubtful of my ability to continue loyal. An accumulation of blunders and dishonourable behaviour has led me to suspect that the only solution to the party's problems is a period in opposition and a change of leadership.

The culmination is the smide and disgusting reaction by leading Tories to Emma Nicholson's resignation. Can they not recognise that one individual's view of personal integrity may not always be a precise duplicate of their own? Now that Major has joined in (report, January 1), I want nothing more to do with the party under the current leadership.

Had Mr Major stated his acceptance of Miss Nicholson's right to see matters differently from himself and wished her luck I might have held on for a bit longer; but I am not too sure now even of that.

Yours faithfully,
TONY BACKHOUSE,
St Margaret's Concourse,
Pulborough, Cornwall,
January 1

From Mrs Cillian Bardinet

Sir, Watching recent events in Britain from this side of the Channel, one wonders whether John Major's qualities are really understood. Possibly alone among present European heads of government, he has consistently shown both wisdom and shrewdness. To Europe, as to Ireland, he has brought patience and tenacity. His achievements are already considerable, his long-term targets now in view.

A short spell working in almost any of our European partner countries would be salutary to the Major-bashers. Faced with income tax well over 40 per cent, corporation taxes prohibitive in many cases of the creation or running of small businesses, heavy social welfare contributions, oppressive bureaucracy and the ominous presence of real right-wing parties, they would soon regret the tangible feel of personal freedom and prosperity which makes the visitor to Britain.

It is becoming increasingly clear to me that John Major's cautious, thoughtful approach is the very one favoured by many people in Europe.

Yours sincerely,
GILLIAN BARDINET,
21 rue Saint-Honoré,
78000 Versailles, France,
January 2

From Mr Gerard Lakmeyer

Sir, Whether Conservative, Labour or Liberal Democrat, an MP is not there as the representative of the voters for a particular party. It is every MP's right to resign if his or her conscience no longer allows them to vote with the party, but by 'crossing the floor' they are cheating the voters in their constituency.

Yours faithfully,
GERARD LAKMEYER,
Greenhill House,
41 Gayton Road, Harrow, Middlesex,
January 1

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9NN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Fairness of courts-martial system

From Professor Peter Rose

Sir, In referring to the opinion of the European Commission of Human Rights in the case of Alexander Findlay, Sir Frederick Lawton (letter, December 29) argues that any changes to the courts-martial system should be 'based on the experience of those who have to work it', as Sir Frederick wishes.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ROSE,
Lancaster University,
Department of Law,
Lancaster LA1 4YN.

From His Honour Judge Anthony Thorpe

Sir, With 30 years' service in the Royal Navy before I was appointed to the Bench in 1990 I can endorse everything Sir Frederick Lawton has said about the fairness of the courts-martial system in the Armed Forces.

I have never had any doubt that defendants receive at trial a fair trial as possible before what is, essentially, a court of highly qualified assessors. Defendants in the Royal Navy also have the advantage, if they choose, of the services of a naval barrister. Free legal representation is not something that happens often in the Crown Court.

An almost identical situation was considered by the Supreme Court of Canada in *R v. Généreux* in 1992 in construing Article 11(d) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which also required a person to be tried by an independent and impartial tribunal.

The court decided that 'the appropriate question is whether the tribunal, from the objective standpoint of a reasonable and informed person, will be perceived as enjoying the essential conditions of independence'. It is likely that the European Court of Human Rights would take the same view.

In the meantime the opportunities presented by the select committee will enable any necessary changes to the courts-martial system to be made with

the benefit of the experience of 'those who have to work it', as Sir Frederick wishes.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY THORPE,
79 Bishopsgate Walk,
Chichester, West Sussex,
December 28

Balanced attitude to minority rights

From Mr Geoffrey Bindman

Sir, Roger Scruton's denunciation of group rights (article, December 21; and the European Court ruling on the rights of gypsies denies the evident truth that prejudice and discrimination are most damagingly directed at membership for supposed membership of a group.

Oppression of minorities, which has persisted unchecked for generations, can only be remedied by measures that seek to redress economic and social imbalances.

Unfortunately, tackling discrimination only by reference to individual cases leaves the problem virtually untouched. The failure of the earliest anti-discrimination laws here and in the United States clearly demonstrated this.

It is true that laws against discrimination and affirmative-action programmes have not always been implemented sensitively or sensibly. Yet they have been highly successful in the United States in opening up opportunities for black people, and the techniques are equally applicable elsewhere.

Professor Scruton's scaremongering comparison with the worst excesses of the French Revolution is an absurdity. I find his concern for those adversely affected by anti-discrimination policies one-sided and unfair because it is not matched by equal concern for the victims of discrimination.

The democratic instincts of Thomas Paine are preferable to Edmund Burke's patrician sophistries.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BINDMAN,
Bindman & Partners (solicitors),
275 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

January 1.

Still running

From Mr J. R. E. Robinson

Sir, 'Overwork could send you to an early grave' due to stress, one cause of which is the pace of life, according to Valerie Grove's interview with Professor Cary Cooper (December 29). A similar view was taken by Matthew Arnold (1822-88) when he wrote in *The Scholar Gipsy* (1853):

'O born in days when wits were fresh and life ran gaily as the sparkling Thames: Before this strange disease of modern life, With its sick hurry, its divided aims, Its heads o'ertaxed, its palsied hearts, was rife –

Has there been very much change since the last century?

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN ROBINSON,
102 Moreton Road, Buckingham.
December 29.

Amplified opera

From the Chairman of the English Bach Festival Trust

Sir, Mr Richard Fisher's letter (December 26) deplored the use of amplification at the London Coliseum for its production of *La Belle Vivante* is timely.

I quote back to you from your music critic's review (December 12) of the English Bach Festival's production of *Molière-Lully Bourgeois Gentilhomme* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, on December 10: Perhaps the most startling ... element of the performance, at a time when people maintain that you can't deliver dialogue in big theatres without amplification, was the unaided clarity of the spoken text. Every wittily inflected line came pinging out loud and clear ...

Yours faithfully,
RALPH EMERY,
Chairman,
The English Bach Festival Trust,
15 South Eaton Place, SW1.
December 26.

Promises, promises

From Mr F. R. Maher

Sir, 'Inconvenience? What inconvenience?', Mrs Wise asks of the charity which offered to dispatch her order for Christmas cards 'during the week ending January 12' (letter, December 29).

What did she make of your offer to readers, advertised on December 29, of *The Times Atlas of the World*, advising us that 'The Times cannot guarantee delivery before Christmas'?

Yours faithfully,
F. R. MAHER,
22 Lupin Drive,
Huntington, Chester.
January 1.

Reading at leisure

From Mr Henry G. Button

Sir, A book is said to have been returned to a library in north London 63 years late (report, December 29).

A German book about the archbishops of Bremen that had been borrowed from the library of Sidney

OBITUARIES

HARRY McLEVY

Harry McLevy, Scottish Secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, died from a heart attack on December 24 aged 59. He was born in August 1936.

IN THE period spanning the 1960s and 1970s, when ministers and industrialists alike feared that the Communist Party of Great Britain was on the brink of taking over the trade union movement, the party threw up a generation of articulate militants who frightened their leaders as much as the employers. Harry McLevy, Scottish Secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union was one of these hard young men who naturally gravitated to the Communist Party. With other Clydeside activists, he led the unofficial apprentices' strike of the late 1950s that forced wage concessions from the employers, and a grudging recognition of their commitment from their union hierarchy. Gravel-voiced McLevy mellowed with the years, but he never quite lost the wicked gleam in his eye that betrayed his delight in struggle.

His native city, Dundee, is most often remembered today for "jute, jam and journalism", but until quite recently it was also known as a shipbuilding and engineering centre. Harry Pollin, General Secretary of the Communist Party, described it as "that most proletarian of cities" and the party faithfully maintained it was the most radical place in the country.

It was into this tradition that Harry McLevy was born. His father was a shipbuilding worker at the Caledon yard. He was educated locally and then set up as an apprentice in the same yard as his father. But his passionate unionism emerged quickly, and after National Service in the mid-1950s, he left Tayside and went to work on Clydeside in the Linthouse dredger-construction yard.

This was a period of relatively full employment but low wages and discontent among young workers were rife, fanned of course by the increasingly influential CP. With Jimmy Reid, already a Young Communist leader and Gus Macdonald (now head of



Scots TV) he led the apprentices out on strike in 1959. The industrial action spread like a brushfire, compelling the engineering employers and union leaders to negotiate improved rates. Just as importantly, it propelled men like McLevy, Reid and Jimmy Airlie (who were later heroes of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders "work-in" that forced Edward Heath to execute a U-turn on industrial policy) on to the national stage.

McLevy joined the CP in 1961, and returned to Dundee where he played a key role in building up the shop stewards' movement. He was elected convenor of stewards at his old yard, and president of the lay district committee of the engineering union. He pioneered the strategy of occupation when factories were threatened with closure, though his efforts were never as successful as on the Upper Clyde.

He also entered local politics as a city council and parliamentary candidate

for the Communist Party, but this was never quite his metier. When first approached to stand for the council, he protested that he knew nothing of the working of local authorities. "We ken that," retorted his party minder. "If we had any chance of winning, you wouldn't be the candidate."

McLevy went on to become a member of the CP's Scottish executive, and a member of the party's national executive. Politics died with the union for primacy, but when in 1970 McLevy won a seat on his union's policy-making national committee, trade unionism came to the fore. This 52-man body laid down broad policy lines for Britain's second-largest union, whose leadership was at that time marginally controlled by the Left under Hugh (now Lord) Scanlon. McLevy threw himself with a vigour into defiance of the ill-fated National Industrial Relations Court and breached contempt on its president Sir John Donaldson, saying he could "wait

for the Communists to learn to stand up to their challenge to his rulings.

McLevy was a serious, if sometimes unusually questioning, Communist and was occasionally entrusted with international missions. In the 1970s he was dispatched to Mongolia as fraternal delegate to the Mongolian People's Party at Communist Congress. While shopping in what passed for a supermarket in Ulan Bator, he was astonished and dismayed to be accosted by a prostitute; these things were simply not supposed to happen in the "society of the future".

His political doubts eventually proved stronger than his faith, and he left the CP in the early 1980s and joined the Labour Party. By then, with the help of the formidable left-wing machine in the engineering union, he had been elected full-time district secretary for Dundee in 1978. But he continued to be closely associated with the Left, and won further battles to become divisional organiser for Scotland in 1984. He moved easily up the trade union hierarchy in Scotland, joining the general council of the Scottish TUC, of which he was president two years ago.

McLevy's departure from the CP coincided with, and was partly prompted by, the new wave of thinking that drove the Left to look beyond its own narrow confines to the churches, tenants and women's organisations and other "progressive" groups to realise its objectives. He was a tireless advocate of a Scottish Parliament. The split with the CP came about "not through political disagreement," according to the party's general secretary, Sean Gordon, McLevian. "Activism simply took him in another direction."

A sociable man in the classic Scots socialist mould, McLevy liked to yarn, and drink and sing, his favourite being *Passing Strangers*. Jimmy Airlie praised his "pukeish sense of humour, that contained a humanity and intelligence that few in my experience have had".

McLevy's marriage to his first wife Susan was dissolved. He is survived by his second wife Doris, and by the four children of his first marriage.

ELSIE OSBORNE

Elsie Osborne, child psychologist, died on December 7 aged 71. She was born on August 9, 1924.



sumed positions of greater responsibility and influence, becoming head of the psychology discipline, chairman of the child and family department, vice-chairman of the professional committee, external examiner for psychology courses and organising tutor for the postgraduate training course for educational psychologists.

Born Elsie Grayson, one of ten children of a family in Norbury, south London, she won a scholarship to the Kolumba Convent High School in Croydon. On leaving school she worked for a short time for an advertising agency in London before leaving it to help the war effort.

She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) and became a Morse code signaller, eventually joining the staff of the "Q" operation communicating false orders to the enemy and forwarding incoming encoded messages to Bletchley Park.

After the war she worked for four years on the commercial side of *The Times*, where she met John Osborne, whom she married in 1950.

A chance conversation on a train with a psychology professor gave her the idea of studying psychology and she enrolled as a mature student at Birkbeck College, University of London, receiving her BA in psychology in 1951. She then decided to pursue a career in educational psychology, which required several years' work as a primary school teacher, before receiving her Certificate in Educational Psychology from the Tavistock Clinic in 1956, and joining the staff in the Child and Family Department in 1959.

During her career at the

Tavistock she steadily as-

Her areas of professional interest included learning and examining difficulties in children and adolescents, the development of educational therapy, training and supervision, and group relations work. She was a main contributor to the original *Tavistock Series* of books on child development for parents, and recently edited and contributed to the new series. She was a co-author of *The Emotional Experience of Learning and Teaching* and co-edited *The Family and the School. A Joint Systems Approach to Problems with Children* with Emilia Dowling.

After 30 years of service to the Tavistock, the psychologist, profession, and the hundreds of students influenced by her training and supervision, she retired in 1988 to take up an honorary appointment, but continued working with colleagues in London and abroad. She had given seminars in Norway, Spain, Italy and Greece, and she was planning further writing on supervision and aspects of training at the time of her death.

Her own clinical work and writing were characteristically thoughtful and detailed. She would never rush to a quick judgment about a child's difficulties. Throughout her career she presided over many meetings where she had an unusual capacity calmly to consider all the arguments and then, in her quiet manner, to hold firmly to the decision regardless of the opposition. Perhaps her most creative work in recent years centred on developing higher standards for training and supervising psychologists. She was committed passionately to her subject and to the highest possible standards of service to clients, particularly children.

She is survived by her husband. They had no children.

VICE-ADMIRAL PETER VAN DYCK

Vice-Admiral Peter Van Dyck, Chief of Staff of the Belgian Navy, 1973-80, died in Southampton on December 7 aged 76. He was born in Antwerp on October 29, 1919.

ONE OF a group of Belgian volunteers who fought alongside the Royal Navy during the Second World War, Peter Van Dyck had an important role as navigating officer in a minesweeping flotilla of the invasion beaches on D-Day. Later he served in the fledgeling Belgian Navy and went on to hold senior posts in Benelux and Nato.

As Chief of the Belgian Naval Staff he oversaw a significant expansion in the numbers and quality of its warships at a period when it transformed itself from a purely coastal force into a modern navy capable of contributing to Nato's strategic operational capacity.

Peter Van Dyck went to sea



as a Belgian merchant navy cadet in 1939 and sailed aboard the sail training ship *Mercator* which at the outbreak of the war found herself in the Belgian Congo. With a number of other cadets he made his way to Britain and after passing through the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, was commissioned in 1941 in the RNR.

In April 1942 he went to sea as navigation officer of the ocean minesweeper *Lyme Regis*, he took part in anti-submarine patrols in the storm-beaten seas between Iceland and the Orkneys.

At the end of 1943, when *Lyme Regis* joined the 15th Minesweeping Flotilla to prepare for the Normandy invasion, Van Dyck was made responsible for ensuring that the flotilla's eight ships were

exactly on station at the right time.

After the war he transferred to the Belgian Navy which was being re-created after having had all its ships seized by the Germans in 1940. He served in the ships *Aravelle*, *Breydel* and *Lieutenant Ter Zee Victor Breydel*. The last had begun life as the *USS Sheboygan* but owed its resounding name to a Belgian naval officer who had been killed after performing many brave feats in action during the Dieppe raid. In 1951 Van Dyck was offered his first command, that of the ocean going minesweeper *Dufour*.

During operations in the Congo in the years before independence he served as commanding officer of the troop transport ship *Kamina* for two years until 1958. This was followed by a period at the Royal Naval Staff College, Greenwich, and at the Technical School at Woolwich.

When the Belgian Congo

became independent as Zaire in 1960, Van Dyck was Chief of Staff of the Congo Task Group, consisting of the *Kamina* and four Algerine class ships, which played an important role in the withdrawal of Belgian civilians and military personnel.

From February 1962 he was Assistant Chief of Staff to Benelux, based at Den Helder, and in 1964 became operational commander of the naval base at Ostend. From 1968 he served for two years as Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans) to the Allied Commander-in-Chief Channel at Northwood, Middlesex, taking over in 1970 as Inspector General, Belgian Navy.

Van Dyck's final appointment was as Chief of Staff to the Navy. Although it had come a long way from its immediate postwar beginnings, the Belgian fleet still at that time consisted principally of ex-American ships, and had no vessel larger than an ocean minesweeper.

During the period of Van Dyck's stewardship it ordered its first frigates, the first to be designed entirely by the Belgian Navy and constructed in Belgian yards. The resulting four-ship *Wielingen* class of frigates, which were built at Hoboken and Temse on the River Scheldt, entered service in 1978. A compact and well-armed design, mounting a variety of missile, gun and torpedo systems, they are still the frontline ships of the Belgian Navy. In 1978, also, a large new naval base was completed at Zeebrugge, in time to accommodate the new ships.

Towards the end of his term in office, Van Dyck also finalised plans to develop a new class of Tripolite minehunters in co-operation with The Netherlands.

A lifelong Anglophile, Van Dyck spent his retirement in the South of England. His wife Barbara, whom he married as a Leading Wren in 1943, died in 1989. He is survived by their two sons.

STEVEN VAJDA

Steven Vajda, Professor of Operational Research at Birmingham University, 1965-68, and subsequently senior research fellow at Sussex University, died on December 10 aged 94. He was born in Budapest on August 20, 1901.



STEVEN VAJDA played a major part in the development of postwar operational research in Britain and mathematical programming in particular. His book *The Theory of Games and Linear Programming* (1956) was the first on the subject and was translated into many languages. He was influential in communicating these and related subjects to the mathematical, scientific and operational research communities.

Steven Vajda's family moved soon after his birth from Budapest to Vienna, where he received his education and training as an actuary. Subsequently he went to Vienna University where he studied mathematics followed by a doctorate. At this time he studied with, and came to know, many of the century's intellectuals such as Carnap, Schlick, Popper and Gödel as well as Gabor (inventor of the hologram). Their influence helped to form Vajda's broad scientific, mathematical and political knowledge.

The Anschluss in 1938 disrupted Vajda's family and career but his wife and children were subsequently reunited with him in England in 1939. With the outbreak of war he was interned on the Isle of Man as an enemy alien. Here he taught mathematics in what he called a "mini-university". Among his pupils were Claus Moser and Peter Lansberg.

His early release took him into employment in the insurance industry. Soon his ability to understand these new developments and was able to communicate them to others such as Martin Beale who went on to make major developments themselves. Linear Programming proved to have widespread practical applications, as well as in other branches of mathematics such as Game Theory, Graph Theory and Combinatorics.

An underlying theme of these branches of mathematics was the concept of Duality.

Vajda's wife predeceased him. He leaves a son and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS
THOMAS - Suddenly, at home, on 1st January 1996, Mr. Thomas, beloved husband of Barbara and David, and adored grandfather of Barbara and her son, Steve. Steve will be greatly missed by all who knew her. The funeral service will be held at St. Paul's Church, Brixton, on Saturday 13th January 1996 at 2.20 pm. Interment will be at Brixton Cemetery, Brixton.

WATERS - Peacefully on the 24th December, 1995, at his home, with his wife (Waters), friend and companion, the late Captain John Waters, over 20 years. Funeral service at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, NW11, on Tuesday 2nd January 1996 at 11.15 am (West Chapel). Flowers or donations are to be sent to the late Captain John Waters, 107a, 2nd Avenue, London NW11.

WATKINS - Suddenly on the 24th December, 1995, at his home, with his wife (Waters), friend and companion, the late Captain John Waters, over 20 years. Funeral service at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, NW11, on Tuesday 2nd January 1996 at 11.15 am (West Chapel). Flowers or donations are to be sent to the late Captain John Waters, 107a, 2nd Avenue, London NW11.

DEVITT - The Memorial Service for Mr. and Mrs. George Devitt will be held at the Parish Church of St. Leonard, Lenzie, Cumbernauld, on 2nd January 1996. Family service only. Donations to the Missions of the Roman Catholic Church.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE
CHESLAW - Tom, in loving memory. Forever in our hearts and minds, love May and growing family.

BIRTHDAYS

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Above: Ryman's, the 15th-century house near Chichester in West Sussex, and right: the sitting room of one of the newly built Berkeley Homes in Upper Hampstead Walk, London NW3



The 18th-century Parsonage Farmhouse in Pitton, Wiltshire, which has style, manageability, and a pretty garden of half-an-acre, which was sold two weeks after it was first advertised

Sold before the board goes up

What makes a house sell? That is the question on the lips of every family planning to move this year.

Estate agents are fond of the reply that good houses in good locations always sell. But properties which have had a "Sold" sign slapped over their "For Sale" board within days, if not hours, could prove a better guide to success. Their individual sales histories could hold lessons for this new year.

With the help of Savills and Knight Frank, *The Times* has trawled the files from last year to find 1995's fastest selling houses. What were their secrets?

In the country, the best sellers seem to be pretty period properties with six acres, to the south and west of London. They are in or on the edge of a village, and have a sense of community while preserving some privacy. East Anglia is out. Berkshire and Hampshire are in. "I could sell 100 of these houses next week," says Patrick Ramsay, from Knight Frank. Buyers are no longer interested in trophy houses with long drives and over-blown proportions. No one wants to be overhoused.

"Professionals are working longer hours these days," says Mr Ramsay. "So commuting distances are crucial. Top areas for 1996 are Henley, Ascot, Esher and Beaconsfield. Further afield, the west will fare best — the Downs around

Hungerford or the Cotswolds between Cirencester and Stow-on-the-Wold, which are popular because of their attractive countryside.

"Modern and period houses will both sell well this year," says Mr Ramsay. "The ones that fall between these two stools will be harder to sell, that is, architect-designed houses that look old-fashioned, and 1920s and 1930s houses that remain unmodernised."

Five to eight bedrooms are ideal, says Mr Ramsay, and there ought to be at least three bathrooms, but preferably more. Period outbuildings are becoming increasingly popular as people want to have an office from home or house horses or cars. Fewer and fewer buyers want the hassle of six months of builders, and property in good condition is now at a premium.

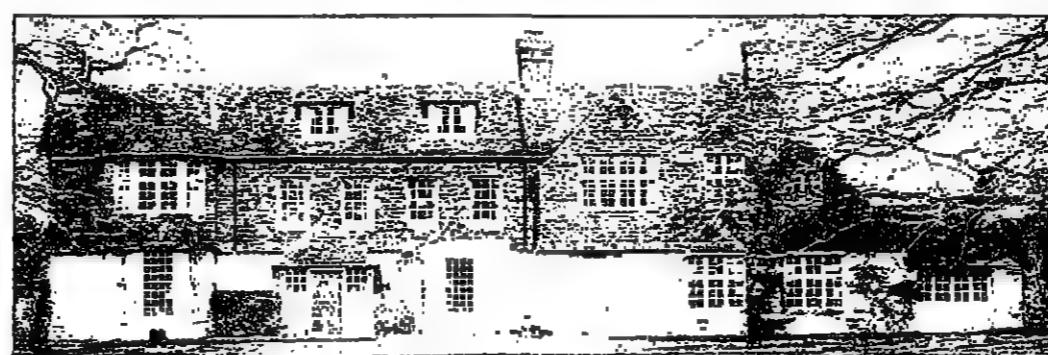
In London, the ideal comprises a combination of good proportions, high ceilings with original features, and state-of-the-art accessories. Wandsworth has established itself as an ideal family location, with Hampstead and Kensington remaining popular.

All agents stress the need for correct pricing. Price a house wrongly and it will fail to sell, thereby becoming tainted. But that, as they say, is another article.

Hillingdon House

Hillingdon was sold even before it was officially put on the market, for more than its £975,000 asking

All those who wish to move during 1996 will want to know what makes a house sell well and quickly. **Rachel Kelly** studies the best-selling houses of 1995 to find the answer



Hillingdon House in Hattingley, Hampshire, which was sold before it came on the market

price. The house dates back to the 1530s with extensive Georgian and Victorian extensions. To the south is a stable which was once home to three British dressage champions, Wengel, Waldan and Royal Star, and now houses a fancy automatic central heating system. The house has a large hall, three reception rooms, seven bedrooms, a separate staff flat and a two-bedroom cottage to the north of the courtyard, plus nine acres and three post and rail paddocks.

Mr Ramsay, from Knight Frank, says: "This sold quickly because it is an attractive period house, within

an hour's commuting of London, with paddocks, cottage and equestrian facilities, and with not too much land. It is the kind of manageable house that the newly rich want."

Upper Hampstead Walk

London NW3 Berkeley Homes did well last year by concentrating on the top end of the market which has been perked up by the vast rump of less distinguished housing. In Hampstead, Victorian buildings have been refurbished and new townhouses built at Upper Hampstead Walk, with prices for 57 new homes

between £155,000 and £685,000. Half of the development was sold in three weeks.

Grant Alexson, of Knight Frank, says: "The strength of the sales shows the continuing demand for high-quality townhouses and flats in Hampstead. The houses have been built with the best kind of fittings in their kitchens and bathrooms. Busy professionals will pay no more to have the hassle." The development has car parking spaces, some underground, and a gym. These are the kind of American-style extras now commanding a premium in a market where

everyone who saw it. In fact the final buyers hadn't even been looking to buy when they happened to see it in *Country Life*. Last year we saw exceptional properties sell well: houses with that 'it' appeal. I think the same will be true during this year."

The appeal of Ryman's is that it combines 15th-century architecture with refit windows, a spiral staircase and square-topped windows with reveals. Ian Nairn, in the Sussex edition of *The Buildings of England*, writes: "The extreme delicacy of the paneling in the house is best seen in the wing, with its built-in wardrobe and three windows of graduated size facing east, south, and west which admit different amounts of light in the workshop and bedroom. Here, the 15th century considered the quality of life with as much care as the most painstaking 20th-century designer. The bedroom has all three windows in authentic condition and an original fireplace."

Parsonage Farmhouse

Pitton, Wiltshire This 18th-century farmhouse was sold just two weeks after it was first advertised for sale for £285,000. Robin Gould from Savills says: "1995 was marked by buyers' selectiveness for better-quality houses. Parsonage Farmhouse offered the combination of style, manageability, and a pretty garden of just more than half an acre. For these reasons the house proved unbeatable in a market where no much quality property is being offered for sale."

Rymans, near Chichester, West Sussex

The Grade I listed house was advertised in *Country Life* in June, at between £60,000 and £65,000. By the following week, several firm offers had been made. Ten days later the eight-bedroom house, with its formal walled parterre gardens and 14 acres, was sold for more than its guide price.

Ian Stewart, from Savills, says: "Rymans has the equivalent of sex appeal. It caught the imagination of

everyone who saw it. In fact the final buyers hadn't even been looking to buy when they happened to see it in *Country Life*. Last year we saw exceptional properties sell well: houses with that 'it' appeal. I think the same will be true during this year."

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Chester Square, London SW1

A house in the square was sold before the completion of redevelopment for £3.5 million for an 84-year lease, to the chairman of an international company. Camilla Lindsey, from Knight Frank, says: "The house had air-conditioning, a lift and a garage — to have all three is rare in a London house. It was special because the buyer wished to design the interior to fit his own requirements."

Can there be a community spirit in a residential megalith? **Guy Walters** reports

New flats snapped up in the capital

New flats in London are outperforming much of the rest of the metropolitan property market. Agents report successful sales at developments such as County Hall, the former headquarters of the Greater London Council, which is being converted into 411 apartments. Buyers can enjoy a swimming pool, health club and gymnasium. Prices for one-bedroom apartments start at £90,000, and three-bedroom flats range from £250,000 to £375,000.

In Hampstead in north London, the decaying student union buildings of London University's old Westfield College are being razed. Out goes the subterranean dance-floor and airport-lounge bar and in comes a swimming pool, gym, sauna, spa and squash court for the residents of the 149 apartments and penthouses. Westfield will be completed at the end of 1997, but with a two-bedroom apartment costing about £300,000, and a £600 sq ft penthouse at £685,000, it is hardly likely to attract many of those graduates in search of nostalgia.

In Battersea, southwest London, Berkeley Homes is erecting Riverside Plaza, in which many of the 76 apartments have river views across to Chelsea Harbour. Prices start at £169,950 for two bedrooms, while £449,950 will buy a 1,755 sq ft apartment with three bedrooms over two floors. Riverside Plaza does not have a gymnasium, but it does have the Harbour Club just over Wandsworth Bridge.

Such developments, of which these three are typical, are becoming increasingly popular. More than 4,000 bedrooms' worth of such flats are coming on to the market in the next 30 months, and



County Hall, the river-front former headquarters of the Greater London Council, and (right) a bedroom in the converted building

many are situated in unfashionable parts of London.

Surely those who can afford £375,000 for three bedrooms would rather live in a more upmarket and established area such as Kensington? And wouldn't living in County Hall be like squatting in an anonymous Holiday Inn on the outskirts of Newark, New Jersey?

In short, can there be a community spirit within a self-contained megalith?

Alison Dean, of Savills, says: "The people who buy into these developments tend to be gregarious types who bring their own sense of community with them. A few years ago, many Londoners were against the notion of living in such places, but now they have warmed to them."

During one weekend at the end of October, 2,500 people visited County Hall, and 100 flats were sold in one day. Ms Dean regrets not moving into such a development herself.

Overseas buyers make up about 40 per cent of purchasers, attracted by the high finishes and problem-free properties on offer. Sixty per cent of apartments are sold to British buyers, some of whom use the properties as places where they

can spend weekends in the capital. Some foreigners, particularly the Chinese, buy the apartments for their children who are studying at British universities, and sell them for a small return when the degree is completed.

Others are attracted by the investment potential. At County Hall, for example, apartments could be let for an estimated yield of between 9 and 13.5 per cent.

Many of the visitors at the County Hall weekend were hunt-

ing on behalf of elderly relatives; others were young couples buying for the first time. Most are attracted to these "mansions of the gods" by their low maintenance and security.

Few seem to be particularly interested in gyms. "What gyms represent is an image of a lifestyle," Ms Dean says. "And that is something that people buy into. They may, of course, never use the gym."

However, not all of these residents

are welling up in old offices and offbeat boroughs. LCR Developments is transforming the better part of Stanhope Gardens in South Kensington into two, three and four-bedroom apartments.

The blurb promises genteel living: "Plans for the development of the gardens include the provision of a tennis court and a croquet lawn. On fine days, residents will also be able to enjoy morning coffee or afternoon tea served at tables on the lawn by waiters from the (nearby) hotel."

Decorative as open fireplaces may be, many people do not appreciate the hazards of an unvented chimney. September to April is known as the "chimney fire season", and of the 1,000 fires that the Central Statistical Office records each year, most are caused by blocked flues.

"People want that old-world feel again," Roland Curtis, of the Solid Fuels Association (SFA), says. "No one smuggles up to a radiator."

Attempts to light fires with paraffin or petrol is another cause of chimney fires. So, too, is the lack of sweeping. Chimneys should be cleaned at least twice a year.

It is important to have a chimney draught-checked when converting a fireplace. Sweeps use power-sweep machines to blow smoke up chimneys to check for leaks.

"Because the heat from open fires is fierce, chimneys need to be robust," the National Fire Place Association says. Should a chimney catch alight, it should always be tackled by the fire brigade. A fire that appears extinguished is often smouldering in the flue.

Close-mesh guards, regular sweeping and smokeless wood, which are well sealed now, is vital that people are aware of the need for ventilation."

Having the correct owl, a kind of chimney-pot hat with holes,

helps a fire to breathe. Of the 150 types on sale, only a few are suitable for solid-fuel fires. Martin Glynn, a sweep of 23 years, says ill-fitting cowls make his job "a nightmare" by not creating sufficient draught.

Another common cause of fire is the burning of household or bituminous wood. It may be cheap, but is dangerous if used before two years' storage. "People tend to pick up the wood and burn it while it's damp," Mr Glynn says. "The moisture causes tar to build up in the flue. It is highly flammable and catches light when the fireplace is reused."

The SFA recommends smokeless wood, which, although more expensive, burns longer and leaves less ash.

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Having the correct owl, a kind of chimney-pot hat with holes,

A LUXURY beach house in Hawaii has had its price slashed by £8.2 million to £5.8 million and American estate agents are marketing the house here in the hope of attracting a British buyer. **Jenni Cox** writes.

Bids are being sought for the Schutter Estate on Hawaii's island of Oahu. Once the home of successful American trial lawyer David Schutter, who in the 1980s borrowed heavily to indulge his hobby of entertaining America's sporting celebrities by building them a retreat, the estate was repossessed on November 1.

The American firms Kennedy-Wilson

Just £5.8m for a Hawaiian dream estate

International and Conley Dew are selling the property for the Bank of Hawaii at a 60 per cent discount. For a quick sale the property is to be auctioned and a deadline of January 15 has been set for any offers.

The plot Mr Schutter secured was one of only half a dozen on the "millionaire's row" section of Kahala Beach, with a sandy beachfront. Here Robert Louis

Stevenson took walks and tea on the beach with the last king of Hawaii's daughter, whom he married before going on to Samoa. Sylvester Stallone, Lionel Richie and Shakira O'Neal are a few of the famous who have partied or worked out on the estate.

On an island famous for spectator sports, the facilities are unequalled. An underwater tunnel connects two swim-

ming pools; if the two-minute walk to the sea seems too far, there is also a spa, sauna, steam bath and a salt-water flotation tank. Although the Waialae golf course is within walking distance, the estate has a netted golf and batting cage plus two grass tennis courts, a basketball court, billiard table and exercise room.

Mr Schutter enjoyed the high life for a

which make up the resort. At 700 sq ft, the master bedroom is the size of a small apartment, with Italian marble floors, sunken whirlpool bath and a large shower. Additional landscaping includes waterfalls, a fishpond and an outdoor pavilion, with views across the palm trees on the Hawaiian beachfront.

The deadline for bids is January 15. Tom British time. Inquiries: Conley Dew Ltd, 201 Merchant Street, Ste. 3200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 (808 524 2844) or Kennedy-Wilson International, 530 Wilshire Blvd, Ste. 101, Santa Monica, California 90401 (310) 522 0664.

JENNIFER COX

• The Solid Fuels Association (0171-0153); the National Fire Place Association (01994 713 553); the National Association of Chimney Sweeps (01785 811 722).

مكتبة الأصل

NEWS

Inquiry into water mains burst

■ Water companies were ordered to explain why up to a million households were left without supplies for the second successive night.

With the Army on standby in the worst-hit areas of the North East and Scotland, people queued for up to an hour to fill bottles and buckets from tankers and bowsers. Hospitals cancelled routine operations and many schools may not be able to start the new term on time next week Page 1, 3

Royal bodyguard hurt skiing

■ The Prince of Wales's principal bodyguard broke his leg on an alpine ski run at Klosters in Switzerland while protecting the royal party during their skiing holiday. Inspector Tony Parker was found by a guide and the Prince, who stayed with him until a helicopter arrived Page 1

Land of the free

More than 300 British employees at the US embassy in London are now working gratis for Uncle Sam because the Grosvenor Square mission has run out of money to pay them Page 1

Gas compensation

British Gas bowed to mounting pressure from consumers and said it would compensate customers left without heating after it failed to repair systems covered by its agreements Page 1

IRA blamed

The Northern Ireland peace process faced its gravest crisis after Sir Patrick Mayhew blamed the IRA for murdering seven alleged drugs dealers Page 2

Resignation fight

Sir Nicholas Lyell and William Waldegrave are to fight calls for their resignation that will follow the report of the long-running Scott inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair Page 2

Railway chase

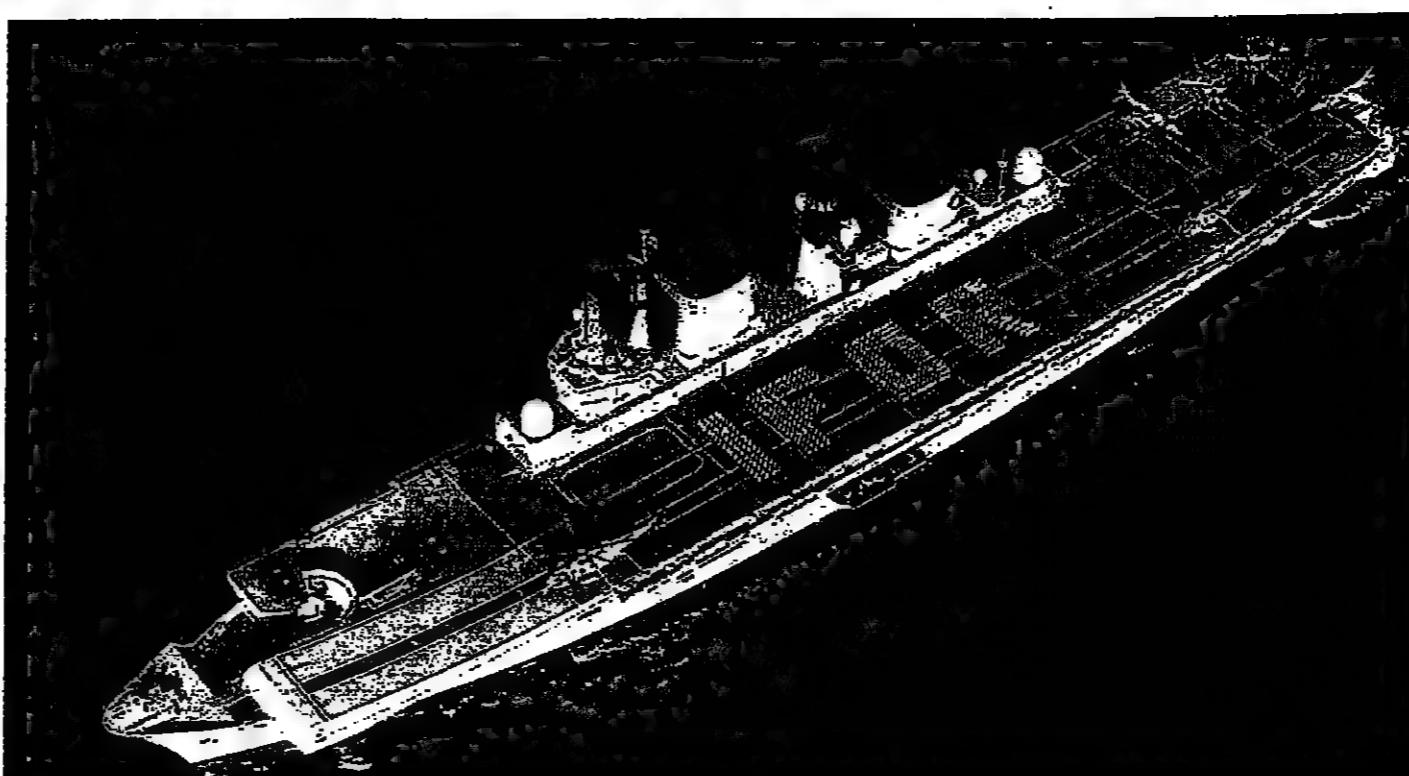
Passengers chased and caught an alleged rapist after his terrified victim banged on the windows of their late-night commuter train in south London, a court was told Page 3

Lottery appeal

Virginia Bottomley is to appeal to Middle Britain in an attempt to regain the moral high ground for the National Lottery Page 4

Another drop in drink-driving

■ Drink-driving offences fell for the fourth successive Christmas as motorists heeded the tough advertising campaign. Police recorded 4,330 positive breath tests over Christmas and new year in England and Wales compared with 4,706 last year, a fall of 8 per cent. But one in five of the drivers failed the test after being in an accident Pages 1, 5



Five hundred sailors on HMS Illustrious off the coast of former Yugoslavia spell out the initials of Nato's Implementation Force

BUSINESS

Job cuts: AT&T, the American telecommunications giant, is taking a \$4 billion restructuring charge to pay for 40,000 job cuts over the next three years. The charge is thought to be the largest ever made by a company Page 23

BT: Sir Peter Bonfield took up his post as chief executive warning that the company faces a "roller-coaster ride" this year Page 23

House: Prices are still much lower than they were a year ago in spite of five consecutive monthly increases, according to the Halifax. Britain's largest mortgage lender Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 1.4

to 3679. Sterling rose from \$3.1 to \$3.5 after rises from \$1.5505 to \$1.5570 and DM 2.2191 to DM 2.2340 Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: England were all out for 153 on the first day of the final Test in Cape Town. Allan Donald taking five wickets. South Africa were 44 for 2 at the close Page 44

Motor racing: Jackie Stewart, Britain's most successful Formula One driver, is to return to grand prix racing at the head of his own team in 1997, aiming to challenge for the top prizes Page 44

Football: The Old Firm game tonight, at Celtic Park, brings an opportunity to determine whether the gap between Celtic and Rangers is as great as ever Page 33

New York theatre: Patrick Stewart

is one of the few men to have triumphed on a Broadway stage during a season in which women have been able to enjoy all the best parts Page 33

ARTS

Lookahead: From the big Cleopatra retrospective at the Tate Gallery to the Who's *Tommy* in the West End of London. Times critics pick the hot tickets around Britain this winter Page 31

Young at Art: Smithills School in Bolton reverberates to the sounds of five bands, three choirs, and a star and tabla ensemble Page 32

Thinking big: As part of the millennium celebrations, Portsmouth and Gosport are planning the most spectacular piece of urban revival in Britain Page 33

New York theatre: Patrick Stewart

is one of the few men to have triumphed on a Broadway stage during a season in which women have been able to enjoy all the best parts Page 33

LIFESTYLE

Lessons for life: A four-year-old's reaction to a marshmallow tells a lot about "emotional intelligence". Is it the latest US concept Page 15

FASHION

Look of the year: The mood is pithin. The accent is on shape, colour and fabric Page 14

TRAVEL

Branded: Marketers will spend \$8.7 billion in 1996 with creations like the Andrex puppy. How consumer-friendly are they? Page 35

Seen it: Brenda Maddox puts her money on a few dead certainties for the year ahead Page 35

HOMES

Going, going, gone: What makes a house sell? The best-selling houses suggests some answers Page 21

HAWAIIAN DREAM

A luxury beach house in Hawaii is slashed to £5.8 million and the agents hope to attract a British buyer Page 21

PAPERS

Federal budget cuts are increasing the strain and one result is higher tuition at state colleges which are no longer as accessible for kids with out money Washington Post

Tax breaks for bikers? Tax breaks for walking to work? It's nice to see

liberals have begun to understand the dynamic effects of tax reductions Washington Times

Preview: Patricia Routledge becomes an OAP, and a private eye, in *Hetty Wainthropp Investigates* (BBC1, 9.30pm). Review: Lynne Truss enjoys a quirky quest for inventors and inventions Page 43

CINEMA

The Arafat vote

The Chairman of the PLO has shown little taste so far for the spirit of multi-party democracy: complaints against him, which mount by the day, are made as fiercely by ordinary Palestinians themselves as by disconcerted foreign observers Page 17

The Union gavotte

Will they, won't they, will they, won't they bring down the Government of John Major? The Ulster Unionists want to keep everybody guessing: uncertainty is their strongest political weapon Page 17

Frank Sagittarius

When Sinatra broke loose from the Tommy Dorsey Band in 1943 he not only asserted his independence, he also changed forever the status of the popular singer Page 17

CINEMA

SIMON JENKINS

The Government found it hard enough to govern well with a small majority; this year will be worse. There is no reason for postponing an election beyond this summer — not even that Mr Major is more likely to win. He is not Page 16

KEVIN MYERS

Nobody likes to say that the IRA ceasefire is over. But it is so. Four-score years after Republicans began their war to remove the British from Ireland by force of arms, the ambition has not been achieved. But nor, most importantly, has it been abandoned Page 16

SIMON BARNES

Michael Atherton has won a very decent number of his personal battles against overt opponents, such as Shane Warne, Courtney Walsh and Allan Donald, but Andy Atkinson, a groundman, gets him every time Page 41

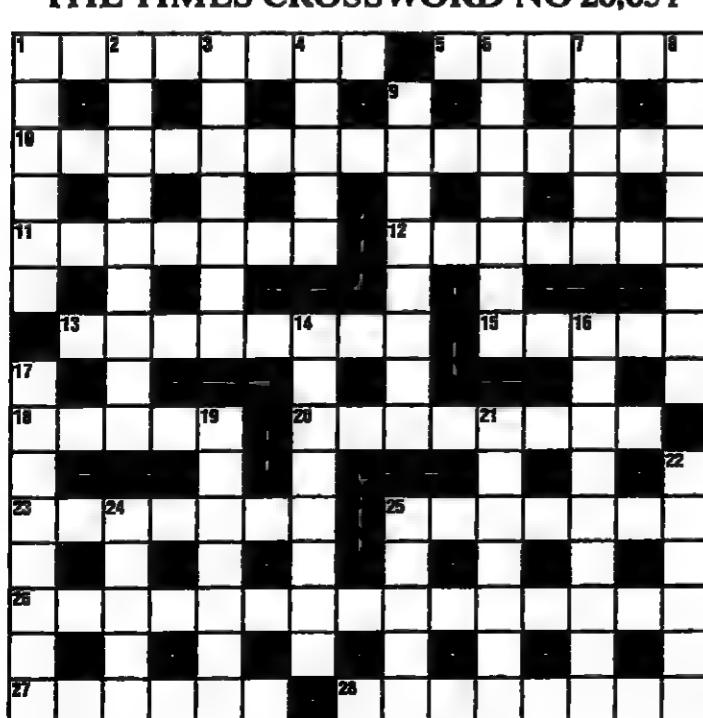
CINEMA

Harry McLevy, union leader; Elsie Osborne, child psychologist; Vice-Admiral Peter Van Dyck, Chief of Staff of the Belgian Navy Page 19

LETTERS

Emma Nicholson: courts martial: minority rights Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,054



ACROSS

1 Joint in dreadfully poor taste? Not quite (3,5).
5 Man, for one, I malign with no hesitation (6).

10 Endless debating? It's proved to be impossible (9).

11 Road transport's still here — fish taken by old vessel (3,4).

12 Robot also needs switch I inserted (7).

13 Disorderly lout given a fright and banned (8).

15 Flat and smooth, so to speak (5).

18 Hold water that's a degree higher (3,2).

20 Killer charged in Spain (8).

23 Goddess encountered in the herd (7).

25 Opposition ends in reforms (7).

26 Countryman runs on board ship — behind Nelson's back, it appears (8,7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,053

PICKWICK MODEST
D A I I O G P
S A N I T A T I O N
T O H A A S N
M I N D O W D R E S S I N G
A I U E T E I
R E C I T A I L R E O R D E R
A S R C O
D O L L O P S P Y R A M I D
R A A R H I M E
C O N G R E G A T I O N A I N
H O A T Z I L A
M A I I G A S T R O N O M Y
R I T I L M N R
A D C O N I S R E L E A S E R S

27 Judge application to be rubbish (6).

28 Traveller who won't go as far as 17? (8).

29 Father goes on fast in church office (6).

30 Change direction in act on cycle (4,5).

31 Clothing for protection that's paramount? (7).

34 Did stomach take second lot of food? (5).

35 Ross was not invalid (5,2).

37 Don's familiar with a maiden I serve (5).

38 Heated argument heard before church, perhaps (4,4).

39 Hero's lamentation in tree (8).

40 Heads of television in conflict over plan for channel (8).

41 Satisfaction that one mentor is concealing (9).

42 He's prepared to forgive buddy about nothing (8).

43 Wretched disheartened type given religious sanctuary (7).

44 He rebelled against father so, a lamb going astray (7).

45 One who's never going to be a persistent competitor? (6).

46 Concept upwardly mobile male provided (5).

47 Hidden and keeping silent to track game (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

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Central Scotland: E Central Scotland, Grampian & Highlands 717
North-east England: North-east England 718
Scotland: Scotland 719
Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland 720

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13°C (59°F); lowest day temp: Shrewsbury and Worcester, 3°C (37°F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, Grampian, 0.24in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 6.2hr

Today: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13°C (59°F); lowest day temp: Shrewsbury and Worcester, 3°C (37°F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, Grampian, 0.24in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 6.2hr

Tomorrow: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13°C (59°F); lowest day temp: Shrewsbury and Worcester, 3°C (37°F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, Grampian, 0.24in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 6.2hr

Friday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13°C (59°F); lowest day temp: Shrewsbury and Worcester, 3°C (37°F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, Grampian, 0.24in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 6.2hr

Saturday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13°C (59°F); lowest day temp: Shrewsbury and Worcester, 3°C (37°F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, Grampian, 0.24in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 6.2hr

Sunday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13°C (59°F); lowest day temp: Shrewsbury and Worcester, 3°C (37°F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, Grampian, 0.24in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 6.2hr

Monday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13°C (59°F); lowest day temp: Shrewsbury and Worcester, 3°C (37°F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, Grampian, 0.24in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 6.2hr

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13°C (59°F); lowest day temp: Shrewsbury and Worcester, 3°C (37°F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, Grampian, 0.24in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 6.2hr

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13°C (59°F); lowest day temp: Shrewsbury and Worcester, 3°C (37°F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, Grampian, 0.24in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 6.2hr

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□ Defence package tests Granada's grit □ Gas in the doghouse again □ Bank studies the Leeson effect

Forte's moonlight flit

□ SIR ROCCO wants to win this one, for reasons that are not entirely commercial and no matter how much of his shareholders' money it costs. It may have been designed to take the market unawares, but Forte's final throw in the game has a hint of desperation.

That said, it will probably suffice. Readers of the Sunday papers, that twilight world where the true business of contested takeovers is increasingly conducted, learned two things over the holiday weekend. They learned to expect £500 million in goodies for Forte shareholders, and they understood that Granada was hesitating over a 10 per cent jump in the price it was prepared to pay.

The first turns out, surprise, to be a wild underestimate. The second — well, time will tell if it is the same double-bluff. A 10 per cent rise would put an increased offer somewhere in the 360p a share area — some 20p below best City estimates, but analysts are greedy creatures and best kept on short rations.

The problem for Gerry Robinson at Granada is that 360p is not enough to win, but he cannot afford much more because Forte does not offer the sort of obvious

savings available from Pearson, the bid he should have made.

The only way he might, and not stretch the patience of his shareholders, is by realising the £670 million Granada's holding in BSkyB is currently worth; a refusal to do so suggests Mr Robinson thinks that a better long-term investment than Forte, which is a telling revelation.

The Forte defence gives an idea just what kind of beast would be left after the disposals and the shares buy-back. There is talk of selling the freeholds of some luxury hotels and operating them as management contracts. This could push gearing down well below the 35 per cent the group regards as a minimum; along with the expected recovery in the hotels sector, it would also raise interest cover way above a rather uncomfortable 4 times' profits based on next year's forecasts.

The betting must be that Granada will not go sufficiently higher to win; Forte would be left in danger of losing its hard-won reputation as Britain's most

on the London stock market and would always command some bid premium as a result.

It would leave Sir Rocco, second generation Forte, in charge of a sadly shrunken business, which is no bad thing, because the rest of the defence package is mere window-dressing: dividend rises that would have taken place anyway and a trio of internal board appointments. Perhaps Sir Rocco will at length put a cap on this Granada-inspired shake-up, and bring in that chief executive to share the top role at Forte.

Gas guzzlers

□ IT HAS not been a good Christmas for utilities. Hydro Electric in Scotland was caught out by the blizzards, and thousands of homes are now without water, after the thaw. British Gas, for a split second, was in danger of losing its hard-won

reputation as Britain's most harnessed privatised business. Only for a second, though. The great minds at the Rivermill House head office were not going to deprive the company of its proper place at the top of the public hate-list.

Readers of these pages will not be too shocked by the news that British Gas as a matter of course evades its responsibilities under its disgracefully overpriced ServiceCare contracts, because they read it here first. But one or two non-readers had their holiday comprehensively ruined because they foolishly chose to rely on those contracts.

These allow that if your heat-

ing fails, it will be fixed by a dedicated team of engineers on the same day — except when the weather is cold, there is an "R" in the month, or any number of other excuses occur that may take the company's fancy.

The weasel words in the contract allow British Gas to refuse to carry out the work on time, if it is inconvenient or too many other consumers require the same service. The company is wittering about compensation payments, but this is in reality the insurers' dream, an insurance contract on which payment is merely optional.

British Gas says the lack of engineers this year has nothing to do with the 25,000 people it has sacked over the past decade. Pathetic. British Gas says that cold weather in November and December is not normal, so releasing it from obligations for which its customers have already paid. Beyond pathetic.

British Gas says the only real worth of the contracts, which bind the company to provide

hazard a rough guess: the bonus is all. That assessment might also include the obvious doubt whether, in this case, the hidden hand of free markets manages to translate personal self-interest into anything remotely useful to the economy.

The Bank insists that it has no intention of laying down how people should be paid. Certainly not. There are subtler ways. Any regulator worth its salt will ensure that banks that expect traders to earn most of their income from profit-related bonuses have such a high capital requirement imposed on them to allow for the risk that they will rapidly change their ways.

Left-hand drive

□ JUST consider: the head of Rover is arrested and charged with phone-tapping — but the news takes two months to leak out. It would be inconceivable in Britain; it happened in France. If you substitute Rover with Renault and the former politician now running the French car-maker, France has some of the most restrictive privacy laws in the free world; there, the scandals that are the staple of the financial pages in Britain would simply have been suppressed.

Sainsbury's promotion rekindles price war fear

BY SARAH BAGNALL

J SAINSBURY has rekindled fears of a price war among food retailers by launching a promotion, which, it claims, saves customers £20 on a typical weekly shopping basket of £70. The move follows last Friday's announcement by Iceland, the frozen food retailer, that it was cutting prices of numerous lines by up to 50 per cent.

The January Savers promotion by Sainsbury involves a combination of price cuts and "buy-one-get-one-free" offers on a range of more than 200 products such as bread, potatoes, coffee, shampoo and chickens. The promotion covers own-label products and brand names.

Sainsbury, chaired by David Sainsbury, saw shares fall 2p to 391p as some analysts expressed concerns that the move could provoke retaliation from rival retailers. Tony MacNeary, an analyst at



David Sainsbury, chairman, saw shares fall yesterday

NatWest Securities, said: "I can't imagine the competition doing absolutely nothing in response to this. The question is, just the scale of their response."

However, both Asda and Tesco were quick to quash any

speculation that they would launch a counter-offensive. An Asda spokesman said: "We see this as short-term price gimmickry. We believe in giving our customers permanently low prices, not just in January, which we do already."

Danes may cut stake in Rentokil

SOPHUS BERENSDEN, the Danish holding company, has hinted that it may be ready to reduce its 52 per cent stake in Rentokil, the UK-based plants to pest control company (Alasdair Murray writes).

Rentokil claimed it ran similar price promotions every January, but this year the offer covered a wider range of everyday items and the price cuts were more substantial. Kevin McCarter, Sainsbury marketing director, said: "We are not trying to reopen a price war. This is a sales promotion."

The promotion is backed up by heavy in-store promotion and newspaper advertising. As a result, the advertising cost is equal to that incurred in the first quarter of 1995, which is estimated by analysts to be about £3.6 million.

Temps, page 26

Test contract keeps Capita in fast lane

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

CAPITA GROUP, the fast-growing company specialising in providing management services to the public sector and utilities, has won a lucrative contract to run the written theory test for learner drivers from July 1. The written theory test will bring the UK into line with other EU countries.

Capita has won the contract through DriveSafe, a new joint venture company owned by Capita and JHP Group, a private training company based in Coventry.

The DriveSafe contract is expected to generate revenues of up to £10 million and will last up to five years. The contract will be overseen by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA), the organisation responsible for all car, motorcycle, bus and lorry practical driving tests. The DSA will also be responsible for development and updating of theory test question banks and for related publications.

DriveSafe will develop a

national network of test centres in all main areas of population and will run frequent test sessions to suit candidates' needs. Paul Pindar, Capita's managing director, said there will be 132 centres around the country.

DriveSafe is expected to supervise between 1 and 1.2 million learner drivers each year as they sit the new compulsory test, which for cars and motorcycles will consist of 35 multiple-choice questions based on the Highway Code and road safety. The company will book tests, collect fees, print test papers, provide premises for tests, invigilate the tests and mark the papers. The fee for the written test is expected to be between £13 and £15.

Mr Pindar said: "We've got a very broadly based business that is not just based on local government." The shares rose 8p to 293p.

Temps, page 26

Booker sells division to Unigate

BY SARAH BAGNALL

BOOKER, the UK's largest cash-and-carry operator, continues to refocus on its core activities by pulling out of the bacon business with the sale of its Lovell division to Unigate for £20.25 million.

The news came as Booker announced "satisfactory" sales over the Christmas period and a 13 per cent rise in group sales for the year to December 31. Like-for-like sales advanced 6.5 per cent.

Charles Bowen, Booker chief executive, said: "This sale marks our exit from the bacon and pork businesses at a satisfactory price. With our increasing focus on food distribution, fish processing and agribusiness, it is more appropriate that they join Unigate."

Lovell's pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 fell to an undisclosed level (£23.4 million). Sales in the year to December 31, 1994, reached £83.7 million. Booker's shares rose 1p to 365p.

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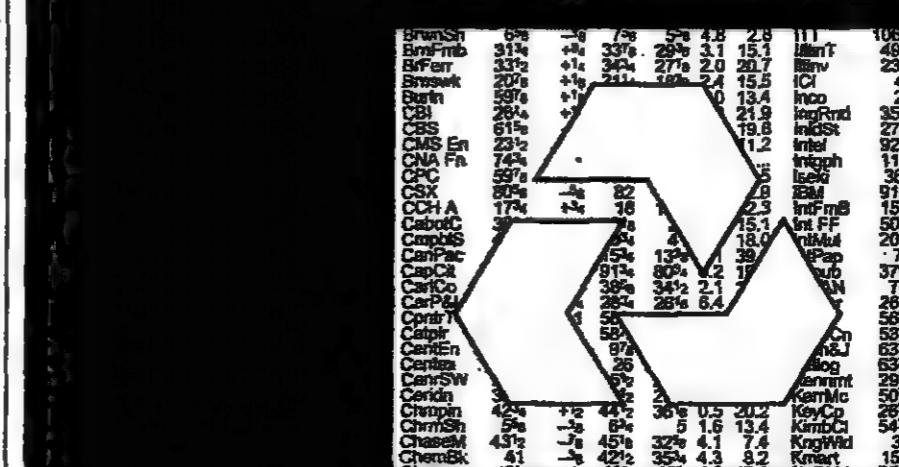
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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Political uncertainties unsettle share prices

AN OPENING rise on Wall Street brought some relief to the London stock market where investors were again unsettled by political uncertainties.

News of the latest Conservative Party defection has raised the possibility of an early general election, in spite of reassurances to the contrary by John Major. As a result, the firm start to trading that many brokers had forecast at the close of business on the last day of 1995 failed to materialise.

The FTSE 100 index saw an early seven-point lead wiped out and by mid-morning was nursing a fall of 22 points. As one leading broker pointed out: "The market can deal with volatility, but what it cannot tolerate is uncertainty. All this talk of an early general election is likely to hang like a cloud over things for some time to come."

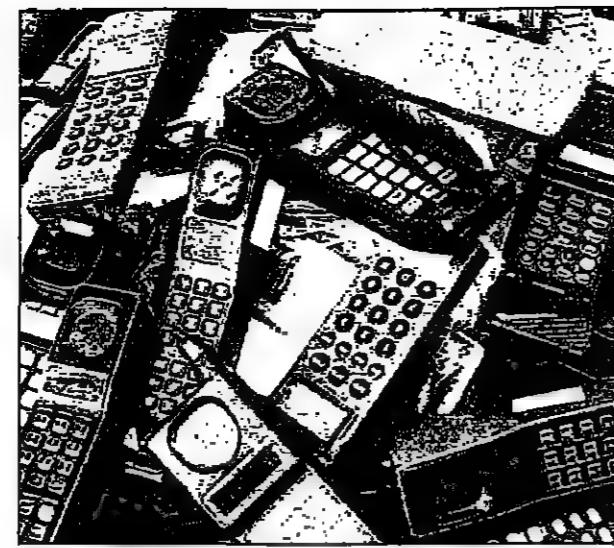
In the event, the index put in a late burst to finish the session just 1.4 down at 3,687.9. But trading remained thin and this was reflected in the turnover numbers with fewer than 500 million shares changing hands.

Early attention focused on Forte, up 12p at 243p, after publication of its final defence document. This proved to be harder hitting than many brokers had expected, containing, among other things, a £3.5 billion valuation of its hotel chain. That compares with the bid from Granada valuing the whole company at £3.2 billion.

Granada has until next Tuesday to respond. City speculators are convinced that Granada will now have to increase its terms to win the day.

The group maintains that it can raise profits at Forte by £100 million simply by shedding most of the 300 jobs at its head office. It also envisaged benefits from increased food and drink buying power. Granada finished 3p easier at 63.2p.

Ladbrokes, the betting and leisure group which owns the Inter-Continental chain of hotels outside the US, jumped 10p to 156p, reflecting the Forte valuation. Ladbrokes shares were unsettled last week by reports that Bass was ready to bid, instead, for rival Vaux. This countered months of speculation that Ladbroke was the real target. In fact, most followers of the sector remain convinced that Lad-



Telecom groups enjoyed mixed fortunes over Christmas

bros is a bid target. Bass finished all square at 719p, while Vaux fell 12p to 270p.

The first day's trading in the new year also focused the bid spotlight on the insurance brokers. This is a sector which is expected to undergo a rapid change in 1996 that could result in a number of takeovers and mergers.

Incheape, up 1p to 250p,

BT ran in profit-taking in

Whitbread's £1.05 billion agreement to buy Forte's roadside operations, including Travelodge, has attracted the support of Goldman Sachs. The US securities house says that the acquisition should have a meaningful impact on long-term growth prospects. The shares rose 12p to 692p.

recently indicated that it had considered selling its Bain Hogg insurance arm, but would now be floating the business off separately.

On the US life insurer, had originally been tipped as a buyer for Bain and has increased speculation by selling two of its life insurance operations for \$1.2 billion. Dealers said this would enable it to make a move for one

in the wake of last week's strong gains, ending 2p easier at 332p. The group reported a 10 per cent increase to 47 million in domestic and overseas calls on Christmas Day.

It had been hoped that similar good news would be reported by Vodafone, the mobile phone operator, but none was forthcoming. In fact, the shares retreated 42p to 226p after reporting a lower

in the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt ended £1.32 lower at £110.16 in thin trading that saw 42,000 contracts completed.

In the cash market, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 dropped £1.24 to £102.16, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished £1.16 lower at £104.17.

□ NEW YORK: Wall Street volumes were at normal levels as the Dow Jones industrial average put on 32.15 points to stand at 5,149.27 at midday.

How Sir Peter does so is

open to question. A long lunch might be a good place to start, followed by a mutual commitment to try to avoid a full monopolies inquiry over anti-competitive behaviour. At best, an inquiry would create months of shareholder anxiety; at worst, it like the one on phone number portability, would go against the company. Mr Cruickshank is on a winning streak. BT's new chief executive would be foolish to hand the regulator another victory by showing no desire to compromise.

Sir Peter can try to get around the problem by building up the company's foreign — that is, unregulated — earnings. But the strategy is highly expensive and will take many years to achieve. BT, for better or worse, is a British operator and should take care of its home market first. That means making peace with Mr Cruickshank.

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American or Northern European winter would have sent oil prices through the roof. Yesterday, however, North Sea Brent oil managed a rise of just 20 to 25 cents a barrel on news that the running of Saudi Arabia had been handed over to Crown Prince Abdullah. King Fahd's half brother, pending the king's recovery from a stroke.

But by tea-time in London, the price of a barrel of Brent was below where it had started the New Year, down two cents on the day, at \$18.31. The milder turn in the European weather over the long New Year weekend had made the price of gas oil futures thaw a little too. Gas oil for delivery during January was down \$3.75, to \$176 a tonne.

In spite of a rise in average oil prices last year, from \$15.53 in 1994 to \$16.86, Saudi Arabia remains a victim. The Crown Prince will be expected to press ahead with spending cuts to balance the national budget.

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But by tea-time in London, the price of a barrel of Brent was below where it had started the New Year, down two cents on the day, at \$18.31. The milder turn in the European weather over the long New Year weekend had made the price of gas oil futures thaw a little too. Gas oil for delivery during January was down \$3.75, to \$176 a tonne.

In spite of a rise in average oil prices last year, from \$15.53 in 1994 to \$16.86, Saudi Arabia remains a victim. The Crown Prince will be expected to press ahead with spending cuts to balance the national budget.

open to question. A long lunch might be a good place to start, followed by a mutual commitment to try to avoid a full monopolies inquiry over anti-competitive behaviour. At best, an inquiry would create months of shareholder anxiety; at worst, it like the one on phone number portability, would go against the company. Mr Cruickshank is on a winning streak. BT's new chief executive would be foolish to hand the regulator another victory by showing no desire to compromise.

Sir Peter can try to get around the problem by building up the company's foreign — that is, unregulated — earnings. But the strategy is highly expensive and will take many years to achieve. BT, for better or worse, is a British operator and should take care of its home market first. That means making peace with Mr Cruickshank.

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In spite

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Brook bursts the bubble

SOCIÉTÉ Générale Equities International's Christmas prize of a crate of champagne for correctly predicting the year-end level of France's CAC 40 index has been won by Clare Brook, of NPI.

She is responsible for the ethically faultless Global Care Unit Trust — a fund that is expressly prohibited from investing in companies engaged in the manufacture, supply and retailing of alcohol.

So what is Brook doing about the prize handed to her by SGEI's Roger Horne? Why, she's keeping it, though promises to dispense some of the booty among her colleagues.

About turn

IT MUST rank as one of the shortest retirements. Richard Payne, former chief executive of the £700 million Stroud & Swindon retired on December 31 after 28 years with the building society. Within 48 hours it was announced that he is to make a comeback as vice-chairman of the newly enlarged Stroud & Swindon after its formal takeover of the £100 million City & Metropolitan society. "I am only 53 so I look forward to being a young and active chairman all over again," says Payne.



Safe and sound

CAUTIOUS Hans Werdelin, chief executive of Sophus Berendsen, the little-known Danish group that owns 52 per cent of Rentokil, has answered a perennial question with a new year teaser. Yes, the Danes would happily consider cutting their stake and ceding control, but only if they could be guaranteed that Rentokil would maintain the 20 per cent a year profit growth it aims for. Humble shareholders in ICI or British Gas would doubtless be delighted to give up their votes if boards would only give such guarantees. Even Rentokil is finding that life is getting harder.

Beam me up

A NEW YEAR, a new idea. And new frontiers. Barclays Stockbrokers is today launching a service whereby clients can be linked "live" to brokers in Glasgow with whom they are transacting business. The theme for the launch is based on characters from *Star Trek* ... presumably so somebody can say when calling Glasgow, "beam me up, Scotty".

Missing agent

KNIGHT FRANK, the estate agent, is offering champagne to anybody who can help to solve its problem. After 100 years of using the three founders' names, the firm is dropping "Knight". "We know William Rutley died aged 55 of a heart attack the day after a jewel sale in March, 1909, but that's about all. No known photograph of him exists, and we'd welcome any information," Bill Yates, a senior partner, says. The switchboards in 20 countries will doubtless welcome the change — especially in Singapore. There, the firm's full name was Knight Frank Cheong Hock Chye & Baillieu.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Could the Internet contain a message for Microsoft?

Richard Thomson

asks if a computer empire can survive the accelerating pace of change

It began as a whisper among rival software makers to which few outside the computer industry paid much heed. But as the months have passed it has been discussed more openly, with more confidence and in areas such as Wall Street, where it is starting to matter. The question at issue is simple, but massive in its implications for the future of the computer industry: is Microsoft at last going soft?

It would have occurred to no one to ask this even 18 months ago. Microsoft's dominance of the software market is a central fact around which the personal computer industry organises itself. Its Windows operating programs are the basis for almost all programs and personal computer functions invented by innumerable smaller software companies around the globe. The reason is simple: about 90 per cent of the world's PCs run on Windows or MS-DOS, the original Microsoft software.

Microsoft's empire has lasted more than ten years — not long by most normal standards, but an aeon in the fast-moving computer world, where time often seems to be telescoped and spectacular innovations become old-hat within months. The problem for any computer company is not only to keep up with the breakneck pace of change, but also to try to predict and understand what is coming next so as to prepare for it.

This is what Bill Gates, the multi-billionaire chairman of Microsoft did so well at the beginning of the personal computer revolution. His big break was in getting IBM to adopt his software for its new personal computers in the early 1980s, when the market was first taking off. Once IBM machines became the industry standard, all the other hardware manufacturers needed Gates's program. Before long, he had overtaken IBM itself, the former computer colossus that had failed to anticipate the brave new world of PCs and paid the price by becoming just another hardware manufacturer.

IBM's sudden fall — it took only about three years — was a warning of how fast things change in the computer industry. If it could happen to IBM, say many observers, why not to Microsoft?

From having once been the *enfant terrible* of the industry, Microsoft is now the establishment. And from once being the quintessential computer geek, Mr Gates is soon to become a father — an event that has raised hope among his competitors that he may be losing interest in business in favour of normal family life.

As if to confirm his arrival as head of the computer establishment, Mr Gates has collected about him a think-tank of some of the biggest names in the industry, such as Butler Lampson, designer of the first personal computer, and C. Gordon Bell, who helped to develop the most successful minicomputer. Impressive as the list may seem, critics point out that these men did their seminal work in the 1970s and early 1980s. By the fast-moving standards of the computer industry, they look like dinosaurs who may have little to contribute to future developments. Wor-



Bill Gates has shown that Microsoft can still respond quickly when required

ries about the company became more open with the publication of Gates's book *The Road Ahead*, a glowingly optimistic vision of the computerised future. To many who work in computers, it seemed a rather superficial hymn to the wonders of electronic toys.

And the key development is the Internet. This, in the long run, is likely to prove far more damaging to Microsoft than renewed government investigations into whether the company operates a software monopoly. New user-friendly software has made the net, the massive international computer network, more accessible to the public. This has opened up a new direction of development for the computer industry. It has also badly wrong-footed Microsoft.

For the past two years or so, Bill Gates has been steering his company's efforts towards CD-Rom technology.

No one could blame him for that: most of the rest of the industry was doing the same. But the vision that had taken him into PC software in the early 1980s did not work for him this time. Neither he nor his high-powered think-tank saw the Internet development coming.

With the growth of the net, CD-Rom is already looking primitive.

As a result, Microsoft has now lost

the chance to create the kind of fundamental operating software for the Internet that it created for PCs. That has already been done by Sun Microsystems that created Java, a computer language already being adopted for Internet use by a significant slice of the industry, including IBM and Netscape, the leading provider of software for accessing the net's worldwide web.

It has already outstripped Microsoft's own software for the web. "Java is there to overthrow what we have

done," Mr Gates said recently, like a Roman emperor declaring war on the barbarians at his gate. At the same time, smaller and more nimble companies, such as Netscape, are running rings around it in writing the programs that help people to find their way around the web.

Even more disturbing for Microsoft are the predictions of many computer experts that the way the net is being organised will eventually make redundant the familiar PC operating programs, such as Windows. According to this view, most PCs will operate via the net, effortlessly interfacing with whatever programs are required. If this development ever comes about, Microsoft's core business would evaporate overnight.

Not surprisingly, the company's competitors are crowing. One observed that while, in evolutionary terms, Microsoft was still at the jellyfish stage, many Internet companies had already developed into vertebrates.

Nevertheless, jellyfish or not, Microsoft is still the most powerful force in the industry and one of the largest companies in the world. Bill Gates may look like a computer geek, but he is also a cunning and ruthless businessman who has the will, as well as billions of dollars in resources, to recover his position — which is what he is trying to do now.

The first step was a sweeping change of strategy last month when Microsoft abandoned its attempt to dominate the net by trying to tie access to it to its Windows '95 program. This was a staggering move that perhaps smacked slightly of panic, but it also showed that, in spite of its size, Microsoft will still be fast on its feet when necessary.

Bowing to the inevitable, Mr Gates opened Microsoft Network (MSN), its online service, to other net software. This involved, among other things, licensing the Java software that Mr Gates had not long before declared to be public enemy number one. It is the first time he has licensed anyone else's software. The change in strategy has made MSN like any other online service, with none of the special advantages that Microsoft usually garners from its market dominance.

In this new world, it is still not clear how anyone will make money from the net. Having given up the attempt to dominate net software, Microsoft is moving to provide content. The aim is probably to provide high-quality material that customers will pay to see. Whether even this will work in the anarchic world of the Internet remains to be seen.

In his heart of hearts, Mr Gates may hope that the Internet will ultimately fail to live up to expectations and that consumers will decide they prefer using CD-Rom. This would, of course,

ensure that Microsoft's hegemony over PC operating systems continues, at least for the foreseeable future. It would mean computer development remains in a world that Mr Gates himself helped to create rather than escaping into an unpredictable realm that he failed to see coming.

But in the meantime, hard-headed investors are clearly hedging their bets. While the rest of the high technology sector raced into the stratosphere on New York's stock markets last year, Microsoft shares slumped by more than 20 per cent, from a high of more than \$100 to about \$87. This is hardly a vote of confidence. Has Mr Gates lost his touch? Has his company gone soft? The jury is still out.



ANTHONY HARRIS

Real growth begins at the Equator

The statement in this headline is a geographical truism: but not really so far from the truth. In 1996, it is generally agreed, the G7 countries will see a slowdown from the 2.9 per cent real growth achieved in 1995 — hardly an impressive performance for what was billed as a recovery from three years in which growth averaged less than 1.3 per cent. Even the 2.4 per cent now expected would bring the five-year average up to a mere 1.8 per cent, the weakest "recovery" on record; and is due almost entirely to the buoyant spending expected from US consumers, and some real recovery at last in Japan. "Slow world growth" looks a fair summary of the Nineties so far.

But G7, or even the OECD, is not "the world". The benign countries known as "the South", previously regarded as client economies of the developed world, demonstrated real dynamic growth in the Nineties. The ten leading Asian economies achieved a four-year average of just over 8 per cent. Even the debt-laden Latin American group managed 3.5 per cent. Their growth generated imports, leading the largely unforecast recovery in world trade volumes, the main stimulant for what little growth the developed world enjoyed. Which is the client group now?

The coming year could deliver a nasty reminder. All forecasts agree that there will be a slowdown in these countries in 1996 — gentle in Asia, but sharp in Latin America. The smaller but also important economies of South Africa and Australia, which have problems of their own, can hardly resist this trend. In his heart of hearts, Mr Gates may hope that the Internet will ultimately fail to live up to expectations and that consumers will decide they prefer using CD-Rom. This would, of course, ensure that Microsoft's hegemony over PC operating systems continues, at least for the foreseeable future. It would mean computer development remains in a world that Mr Gates himself helped to create rather than escaping into an unpredictable realm that he failed to see coming.

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A conventional answer would be that there was no export-led growth. If we look at the G5 countries, we can see that although exports have been much the fastest growing component of demand over the past five years, imports have grown still faster, so that "net exports" actually depressed demand. But this

is the same pattern likely to be seen in the US.

The average American is used to a high debt burden; most Europeans are debt-averse. He holds far more shares and has better job prospects, a good substitute for job security; and the value of his house is recovering, too. Not a European pattern, and, in any case, the latest surveys show US consumer confidence re-lapsing. A consumer-led recovery still looks possible, but it is hardly an odds-on bet.

The surviving monetarists shrug off such real-world doubts: world monetary growth is rising, and that means recovery. Well, perhaps; but why, and when?

The main cause of monetary growth at the moment is not buoyant borrowing, but huge Japanese official intervention in the currency markets. There is no precedent for distortion on this scale, and, therefore, no reliable basis for a forecast; and even if yen devaluation does act as a world stimulus (which does not sound all that likely), monetary growth affects the real economy only after a long and variable time lag.

Recent monetary growth cannot dependably affect the outlook for 1996. The risks in the consensus remain on the downside — unless we have again underestimated the dynamism of the part-forgotten third of the economic world we call the South.

Jon Ashworth on the retailing revolution that could kill off piped music

There's a new sound in store for shoppers



Chris Parkinson, left, of Hammond Suddards, and Dean Miles, sales and marketing director for RBS, are in tune with shoppers

director for RBS. "We've even had one from the Ukraine."

Texas FM became an instant success when it was launched two years ago. "We do have the power to clear bins and sell-out T-shirts," says Miles. "Texas see it as a service to the customer: making the environment better, making the customer stay longer. It's also good for staff morale.

"We get letters from all over Europe," says Dean Miles, sales and marketing

we might run an interview with the chairman, talking about the financial results, or feature staff competitions.

"The idea was, why not have their own customised radio station tailored to the times of day," says Chris Parkinson, who advises RBS as head of media finance at Hammond Suddards, the law firm. "First thing, it's: get the staff motivated, wake

them up. Then it's softer. Coming up to lunchtime, they'll switch to something more modern and bouncy."

Miles says RBS is set to revolutionise retail trading. "It's never been done in this sort of format before. This is a radio station. It's all about trying to get new listeners. If customers stop coming in to the stores, we've got a problem." Relent-

less growth by RBS has inevitably angered the in-store music industry, which has enjoyed a monopoly on tape sales worth some £40 million a year. Stores are also locked in to long leases on sound equipment, making the total annual value of the market as much as £100 million. RBS has even received threatening phone calls and been harassed by competitors hoping to buy it out.

Enviously, RBS has sunk vast sums into its London studios without incurring an overdraft. Expansion has been financed step by step, purchasing CDs and equipment using sponsorship fees paid by the stores. Eager to step up the pace, RBS is sounding out brokers on the merits of a private placing or a move to the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

Texas and BHS provide programmers with information on special offers. RBS installs the satellite dishes and sound systems and provides a tailor-made radio service. The signal is conveyed by digital line to the BT tower, which beams it into space via a satellite transmission station in Woolwich, south-east London. The signal is bounced back to waiting dishes in a footprint that reaches across Europe.

There is no telling where it could lead. RBS is about to broadcast to university campuses, relaying tailor-made radio stations from a studio in Wakefield. There is talk of targeting hairdressing salons and shops — Hairdresser FM or DIY FM. Hospitals and Post Office counters may follow. RBS will act as the intermediary, relaying signals and providing shows if required.

Soon, shopping in Britain could be a highly pleasurable experience. Think about that the next time you're stuck in a six-strong queue with the tony blooming: "Mr Jones to checkout one."

مكانت الأصل

Early losses clawed back

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995 High Low	1995 Price 31/12	1995 P/E 31/12	1995 Yield 31/12	1995 P/E 31/12
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BANKS				
477 2127-251-4590	55.4	34.4	4.1	10.0
478 413 Abbey Mill	5.5	3.8	12.8	3.8
479 425 ABN Amro	10.5	8.5	10.5	10.5
480 426 ABN Amro	10.5	8.5	10.5	10.5
481 2511 ABN Amro	10.5	8.5	10.5	10.5
482 427 ABN Amro	10.5	8.5	10.5	10.5
483 428 ABN Amro	10.5	8.5	10.5	10.5
484 429 ABN Amro	10.5	8.5	10.5	10.5
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601 546 ABN Amro	10.5	8.5	10.5	10.5
602 547 ABN Amro	10.5	8.5	10.5	10.5
603 548 AB				

Keeping tabs on who wears designer labels

by beans to babies, everyone is covered. Chris Ward reports



PREVIEW

A superb Cézanne retrospective comes to the Tate, the unmissable event for art-lovers



PREVIEW

The Who's *Tommy* arrives in London in March, fresh from its triumph on the New York stage



PREVIEW

Thomas Hardy's famous novel, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, inspires a new ballet in Birmingham



PREVIEW

At Covent Garden, a new Royal Opera production for Michael Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage*

From the deaf, dumb and blind kid to Cézanne to the lives of topless lovelies: *Times* critics mark your card for the season

The highlights of the spring collection

Who says the theatrical traffic across the Atlantic is one-way? Whether your search is for musicals or straight plays, the coming months in the West End will have a decidedly American look.

True, *Tommy* (Shaftesbury, Mar 5) is by Pete Townshend, who is not exactly a Brooklyn kid. But his operetta — which comes complete with *Pinball Wizard*, *Acid Queen* and a Romford supermarket stalker called Paul Keating as the rock jock of the title — recently ended a 30-month run on Broadway. And after that we get Stephen Sondheim's latest musical, a dark rite of obsessive love, called *Passion* (Queen's, March 26).

Then there's Neil Simon's *Chapter Two* (Apollo, Jan 31),



Pete Townshend's *Tommy* hits the West End in March

with Tom Conti as a remarried divorcee. Zoe Wanamaker brings *Sylvia*, by America's chief chronicler of WASP culture, A.R. Gurney, to Shaftesbury Avenue three months later. In between comes Harold Pinter's revival of *Reginald Rose's* jilted-room thriller *Twelve Angry Men* (Comedy, April 22). Will its democratic tone be seen dated in the post-O.J. era?

New British drama is skimpy in prospect. However, David Hare's excellent *Sky-light*, with Michael Gambon in emotional disarray, moves from the National to Wyndham's on February 20; Pam Gems' latest bioplay, *Stan-*

key, brings Antony Sher as the painter Spencer to the Coliseum on February 1; and a month later Nigel Williams will be competing with Nigel Williams for good reviews. The author of *The Wimbledon Poisoner* opens two plays within a week. Sheila Hancock comes to the Royal Court on March 27 with *Harry and Me*, about the collapse of a chat show; but we must wait to see who will perform the critic F.R. Leavis and his daunting wife Queenie in *The Last Romantics* at Greenwich on April 1. Ian Holm and Sara Kestelman were superb in the play's premiere on television, so we will be expecting a lot.

At the National, the big spring offering (Lyceum, Mar 22) is Schiller's *Mary Stuart*, with Anna Massey as Elizabeth I. The RSC stages Simon Callow's version of the film *Les Enfants du Paradis* at the Barbican on January 30, and imports one of the triumphs of last year's Edinburgh Festival, *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme*, from the Abbey, Dublin, on March 6. When posterity reassesses the drama written during the Troubles, Frank McGuinness's fierce, forthright play is sure to get a high mark.

Elsewhere in London, watch especially for *Valley Song*, Athol Fugard's latest look at his native South Africa (Royal Court, Feb) and 1953; Craig Raine's updating of Racine's *Andromaque* (Almeida, Feb 14). Out of town, the early season plums promise to be Arnold Wesker's new *Blood Libel* at the New Norwich Playhouse (Feb 1); the ever-enterprising *Théâtre de Complicité* in another South African piece, *Roe* (West Yorkshire, Leeds, Mar 7); Peter Whelan's play about the future of the monarchy, *Divine Right* (Birmingham Rep, Mar 8); and, at Nottingham Playhouse, on February 26, David Ives' much-praised *All in the Timing*, six short plays from — guess where? Yes, New York.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Everybody is in an epic cycle mode this spring. The London Symphony Orchestra offers music's equivalent of the little and large show: a Bruckner/Mozart series conducted mostly by Sir Colin Davis, but also involving Solti, Gatti and Mackerras, as well as the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra and a superb array of soloists led by Uchida, Midor, Muti, Bashmet and Perahia (Barbican, from Jan 16).

Another great soloist, the Latvian violinist Gidon Kremer, plays a series with the Philharmonia (Festival Hall, from Mar 2). Meanwhile, Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra continue their Towards the Millennium exploration of 20th-century music. This year the 1930s are under scrutiny, which suggests a grim diet of serialism. But Rattle and his planners have clearly worked hard to extract a little melodic joy from that earnest era, so although the opening concert (Mar 2, Symphony Hall, Birmingham) includes Stockhausen's orchestral tour de force *Gruppen*, there is plenty of Shostakovich, Bernstein, Martinu, Stravinsky and Messiaen around as well.

Glasgow files the Stars and Stripes (Feb 7 to 17), with the Festival of American Arts and Music directed by the American conductor Andrew Litton. It includes European premieres played by Scotland's two top orchestras, the RSNO and the SCO, plus a visit from New York's Circle in the Square Theatre Company, with Tennessee Williams's *Suddenly Last Summer*. More American music is programmed at the Barbican where Charles Ives — insurance broker and protean musical eccentric — is the subject of a BBC festival (Jan 19-21).

In the chamber field, too, ensembles are preparing big series — most notably of Beethoven, whose string quartets will be presented in two rival cycles. At the Wigmore Hall the Lindsay Quartet are already em-

BBC festival for American composer Charles Ives

respectively; observers of the Machiavellian London orchestral scene will doubtless read significant things into that.

Finally, from the strange but true department: Jack Gibbons plays only the second performance in history of Alain's stupendous, 715-page *12 Etudes for piano* (Feb 15, Queen Elizabeth Hall); Frank Zappa's *Yellow Shark*, the only orchestral work inspired by a surfboard, receives its British premiere at the Festival Hall (Feb 18); and the Russian conductor Hyo-Min Kim makes his debut in the West (RPO, Barbican, Feb 17) at the tender age of 92.

RICHARD MORRISON

Paul Verhoeven's *Show Girls* (mid January) brazenly ogles the female body, and piles glitz spectacle onto a story as fragile as a falling leaf. But as a Hollywood folly, it should be seen. So, for far better reasons, should the season's two other Las Vegas dramas. That *déjà vu* feeling may creep up during Scorsese's *Casino* (Feb 23); for three hours Robert De Niro's gangster rises and falls, while Sharon Stone tides on the sidelines and Joe Pesci shoots off his mouth. But there is much to delight the eye as the camera roams through the temples to greed.

Mike Figgis, in *Leaving Las Vegas* (mid January), takes an intimate approach to his tale of two lost souls: a Hollywood siren drinking himself to death (Nicolas Cage), and a call girl (Elisabeth Shue). Critics' awards have gathered around this film in America, which certainly shows a leap forward for Figgis after his impersonal remake of *The Browning Version*.

Heat (Jan 26) is another American film to look out for.

As in *Casino*, the length — three hours — is not justified, but writer-director Michael Mann tells his tale of LA criminals and their tale of their tall with such dazzling virtuosity that the odd lull is easily forgiven. And who could close their eyes when hunter and hunted are played by Robert De Niro and Al Pacino?

Another big gum, Oliver



PREVIEW

Thomas Hardy's famous novel, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, inspires a new ballet in Birmingham



PREVIEW

At Covent Garden, a new Royal Opera production for Michael Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage*



Bound for the Tate: Cézanne's *Les Grandes Baigneuses* (1890-1905); the other version of the painting, executed in 1906, will also be part of the show

Advance booking has already opened for the Tate Gallery's Cézanne exhibition, the major highlight of the new year's exhibitions (Feb 8-April 26; tickets from First Call on 0171-420 0000). The show, a superb retrospective and the first for many years, may well look even more impressive at Millbank than it did last year at the Grand Palais in Paris. Quite simply, an unmissable event.

By a bizarre coincidence, the Royal Academy launches its grand survey of Lord Leighton's art the following week (Feb 16-April 21). This high priest of Victorian classicism could hardly be more removed from Cézanne, and yet both men produced much of their work in the same, late 19th-century period.

Leighton, who served as the RA's president from 1878 until his death in 1886, will be represented by most of his major paintings and sculpture.

If Leighton's exhibition marks the centenary of his death, the Hayward Gallery's *Spellbound* (Feb 22-May 5) opens 100 years to the day after the Lumière brothers first showed film in London. To celebrate the subsequent intense relationship between art and film, the Hayward has invited ten artists and film-makers to produce new work for the exhibition. Paula Rego, Eduardo Paolozzi and Douglas Gordon will share the space with, among others, Peter Greenaway and Terry Gilliam.

Art interacts with dance at the Barbican Art Gallery, where Diaghilev

and Bessie will add to the show's delights.

In contemporary art, memorable one-person shows are likely from Bill Woodrow (Tate Gallery, Jan 22-April 28), Susan Hiller (Tate Liverpool, Jan 20-March 17), Sergio Camargo (MOMA Oxford, Jan 14-April 14), Jeff Wall (Whitechapel Art Gallery, March-April) and Jean-Michel Basquiat (Serpentine Gallery, March 6-April 21).

The British Art Show is at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and other Edinburgh venues (Feb 24-April 28), and in March the ambitious Visual Arts UK is launched throughout the north of England, celebrating 1996 as the Year of Art.

RICHARD CORK

OPERA

The Royal Opera should rouse us all from post-Christmas torpor with a new production of Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage* by the Mastersingers team of Bernard Haitink and Graham Vick; Cheryl Barker, the US tenor Stephen O'Meara and John Tomlinson sing the leads on January 16. And there are two unmissable revivals: John Copley's lavish production of *Semele*, another great British opera conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras, with the American soprano Ruth Ann Swenson in the title role, and Philip Langridge as *Jupiter* (February 19); and *Arabella*, with Amanda Roocroft as Strauss's heroine partnered by Bryn Terfel and conducted by Mark Elder (March 27).

Elder also conducts ENO's latest foray into Wagner. A new *Tristan and Isolde* directed by David Alden (fasten your seatbelts), with Elizabeth Connell and George Gray in the title roles (February 10). And Graham Vick moves to the Coliseum for a new *Fidelio* on April 24, with Kathryn Harries and Anthony Rolfe Johnson, now conducted by Richard Hickox.

The Welsh National Opera celebrates its fifth birthday this spring — a fine time to be deprived of its new opera house. But its ambitious programme of three new productions survives. A *Cav and Pag* is conducted by the music director Carlo Rizzi, staged by Elijah Moshinsky and Michael Yeargan, and has Anne-Marie Owens and Dennis O'Neill on stage (March 5). This is preceded by a new *Rake's Progress* conducted by Mark Wigglesworth and produced by Matthew Warchus, with a matching young cast of Paul Nilan, Alwyn Mellor and Bryn Terfel (February 17), and followed by a new *Faust* conducted by Mackerras, produced by the other Alden twin

RODNEY MILNES

DEBRA CRAIN



Nicolas Cage and Elisabeth Shue as the two lost souls trying to find themselves in the fine *Leaving Las Vegas*

Stone, fires off his salvo in *Niema* (Mar 15), featuring Anthony Hopkins as Tricky Dicky. That, too, lasts three hours.

Running times do not get any shorter in art-house cinemas. To watch Harvey Keitel wandering through the Balkans in Angelopoulos's *Ulysse's Gaze* (Feb 16), you must allow 177 minutes. There are so few practising cinema poets that Angelopoulos should be treasured, though he does try your patience. As does Emir Kusturica in *Underground* (167 minutes, originally longer), a wartime tragicomedy set in Yugoslavia that begins brilliantly but gives the viewer a frightful pummelling (opens on Mar 8).

Quieter, more civilised pleasures are on hand. Despite a most curious performance by

Hugh Grant, *Sense and Sensibility* (Feb 23) glides along thanks to Emma Thompson's script and Ang Lee's direction; the photography and colour design, too, are beautiful. More social comedy comes from Eric Rohmer in *Rendezvous in Paris*, due on February 9.

Penguins with waists appear in the animated tale *The Pebble and the Penguin* (Feb 16). But the best family entertainment by far is left for late in March when Disney's *Toy Story* arrives. John Lasseter's computer-generated animation is dazzling, and the tale of toys who spring to life allows for a rich mix of humour and thrills that should appeal to all ages. The length is good too: 81 minutes.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW YEAR SEASON AT THE BARBICAN

CARMEN

ENZET
Thursday 4 & Friday 5 January
7.30 pm

"Full-blooded, passionate... and utterly compelling" Daily Telegraph

COSI FAN TUTTE

Mozart
Saturday 6 January
7.30 pm

"A witty and delightful show" The Times

Tickets £12.50 - £16.00
(Children under 16
all seats £8)

Sung in English



Travelling OPERA

OPERA

Barbican Centre

St. St. London EC2
Box Office 071 638 6891

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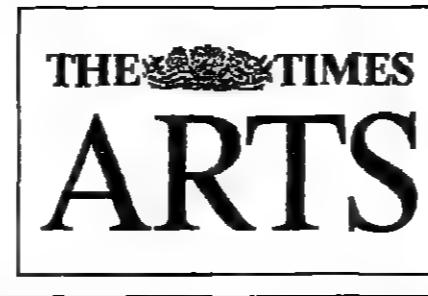
CHOICE 1

The Lindsay opens a season of Beethoven string quartets
VENUE: Tonight at the Wigmore Hall



CHOICE 2

Last week in the West End for Stoppard's *Indian Ink*
VENUE: All week at the Aldwych Theatre



CHOICE 3

Northern Ballet Theatre brings *A Christmas Carol* to Edinburgh
VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Theatre



■ YOUNG ART

Smithills School in Bolton reverberates to the sounds of five bands, three choirs, and a sitar and tabla ensemble

LONDON
BEETHOVEN IN FOURHS Britain's own Lindsay Quartet opens London's month of Beethoven string quartets. Their audience will find the superb and sustained intensity of their interpretations and length of programme including no. 1 minor Quartet Op. 122. The remarkable American ensemble the Emerson String Quartet opens on a scale of its own. See page 12 Jan 24. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171 935 2141). Tonight and Jan 5, 6, 10, 12 and 13. 7.30pm.

MIR WORLDLY WISE Last chance to see Twyla Tharp's much-acclaimed *Mir* — the piece that won a mixed reception — but in typical style Tharp has given us a production the likes of which rarely seem on a British stage. The West End's *Mir* is directed by Peter Sellars and Terence Kukura. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171 904 0000). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm.

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BLOOD KNOT Athol Pugard's celebrated 1981 play, directed by Jonathan Lloyd, the difficult dreams of two South African brothers, one light-skinned, the other dark. A Strange Fish Production, Gate Pimbridge Road, W1 (0171 229 5387). Schedule has changed, plays now begin Jan 8, 7.30pm.

BREAK OF DAY Timbersale. Wandering in London at different times, and in different moods, Steven McFadden's production had not poor reviews but also some enthusiastic reviews. Repertory Theatre, St James's Square, SW1 (0171 900 1748). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Three Sat. Sat. 2.30pm.

ELLA CHRISTIAN DAWK Review of *Elle* Judge a popular but over-sweet production. Cine Francaise plays, Soho.

THE JUNGLE Stages. 85 Sloane St, SW1 (0171 338 8811). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm. Most matins sold out. Until Jan 13.

BLINDNESS Belinda Lang, Kevin McNally and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comics and some of their fans. Savoy, The Strand, WC2 (0171 838 4327). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Sat. 8.15pm. Mon-Sat, 2.30pm. Matinée today and Sat, 8pm.

THE DUCHESSE OF Malfi Anastasia Hille plays the beleaguered heroine in Chekhov's *Jew's* new production in London for a month during its world tour. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2.

NEW RELEASES

ACE VENTURA: WHEN NATURE CALLS (PG) Overbearing vehicle for Robert De Niro. Canine companion, African lion, Dalmatian, Siberian Husky, Cleopatra Picture House (0171 498 3223). MGM/Pulham Rose (0171 227 0335). Previews: Kensington (0171 434 0331); Odeon Kensington (0171 426 1541); Vue (0171 227 9222); UCI Whiteleys (0171 792 3322); Warner (0171 437 4343).

FOUR ROOMS (15) Ununny gongs at a hotel on New Year's eve. Dastardly compendium made by four one-directional Queen: Terrence Malick, David Lynch, Woody Harrelson and Alison Anders. Chances (0171 35 1742). MGM/Pulham Rose (0171 227 0335). Previews: Odeon Kensington (0171 434 0331); UCI Whiteleys (0171 792 3322); Warner (0171 437 4343).

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT (15) What happens when the widowed President gets a girlfriend? Not much. Current.

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

EDINBURGH Northern Ballet. *Twelfth Night*. A Christmas Carol is a dancing production with an original score by Carl Davis and award-winning sets and sets by Lucy Beeson. Tonight and Sat. 7.30pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm. Sat. 8.15pm. Mon-Sat, 2.30pm. Sat. 3.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES British Library Galleries. John Keats 1795-1821: first editions, manuscripts, portraits (0171 412 7111).

Haymarket An Art and Photo exhibition under the direction of Sir Peter Hall, 1000 years of Art in Love. The Corcoran Restored (0171 747 2855). National Portrait Gallery. Prints and Drawings. *Coriolanus* Art of a Contempt (0171 439 7438). Tudor Dynasties: Paintings in Tudor and Jacobean England (0171 887 6000). *Young Vic* from India (0171 938 6500). Whitchurch Estate House (0171 832 2889).

THEATRE GUIDE

REVIEW *Shakespeare Revue* A very evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William Shakespeare. Directed by Christopher Lonsdale and Malcolm Morris. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171 836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8.30pm; matinée, 2.30pm and Sat, 3.30pm.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Deitch's powerful production, with Nicolle Woodcock as the all-knowing Inspector. At the Peacock, Peacock Theatre, 10 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171 830 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm. Sat, 8.15pm; matinée, 2.30pm and Sat, 3pm.

THE JUNGLE Stages. 85 Sloane St, SW1 (0171 900 1748). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. matinée, 2.30pm and Sat, 8pm.

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■ DESIGN

Portsmouth and Gosport are planning the most spectacular piece of urban revival in Britain



■ THEATRE

In New York, RSC veteran and *Star Trek* hero Patrick Stewart wows his fans as Prospero in *The Tempest*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART

In Berlin, German and Russian curators join forces for a major new exhibition



■ TOMORROW

Homicide cops Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman on the path of a serial killer in *Seven*

The Navy and all its Pompey

Lottery-rich Portsmouth need not spend £500m on attracting more visitors, says Marcus Binney

In the great race to celebrate the millennium, two urban neighbours in the South have taken a spectacular lead. Paul Spooner, the head of marketing for Portsmouth-Gosport region, is jubilant. "We have £40 million from the National Lottery and £9 million from the Government Challenge Fund," he says. "And we have just been named Port of the Year. We are talking of a £500 million programme."

This could be the most striking piece of urban revival in Britain, matching the renovated American waterfronts of Boston and Baltimore. There is even a £100 million plan put forward by Hampshire County Council to link Portsmouth and Gosport by a light railway under the harbour.

Guowhar, next to the harbour railway station, is billed as a new home for the Royal Yacht *Brittannia*, converted to a conference centre and moored alongside a San Francisco-style fisherman's wharf with shops, cafés, restaurants and a new waterside hotel.

But it is too high a proportion of lottery funds being used to create new attractions when money should be invested in giving a secure future to the historic ships and more of the naval dockyard buildings?

Portsmouth's aim is to draw more people to the city. But where will they stay? According to Michelin, the hotel situation in Pompey is dire compared with that at other top resorts — unless you stay across the water at Fareham.

So where is the lottery money going? First, two creating five kilometres of waterfront promenades could be Portsmouth's answer to London's Embankment, com-

plete with resplendent sculptural lamp stands, granite walls and Yorkstone paving. But Celia Clarke, the chairman of the Portsmouth Society, claims that not enough trouble is being taken to ensure high-quality modern design.

With good reason, Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, urged Portsmouth to hold an international design competition for the proposed 165m-high, £24 million harbour observation tower. Portsmouth should be looking for a modern-day Eiffel. Britain today bristles with inspired engineers who, perhaps using masts and rigging as a motif, could design a world-famous landmark. But Portsmouth is dodging the issue. "We've had interest from Hong Kong and America," Spooner says.

"We don't want to end up with a tower that no one wants to build," he says.

So it will be a competition between developers."

Portsmouth seduced the millennium commissioners with an artist's impression showing a great water arch spanning the whole harbour. Things have since changed a bit. "It would," says one sceptic, "have required the largest marine pump ever built and would have sunk every ship that came into the harbour."

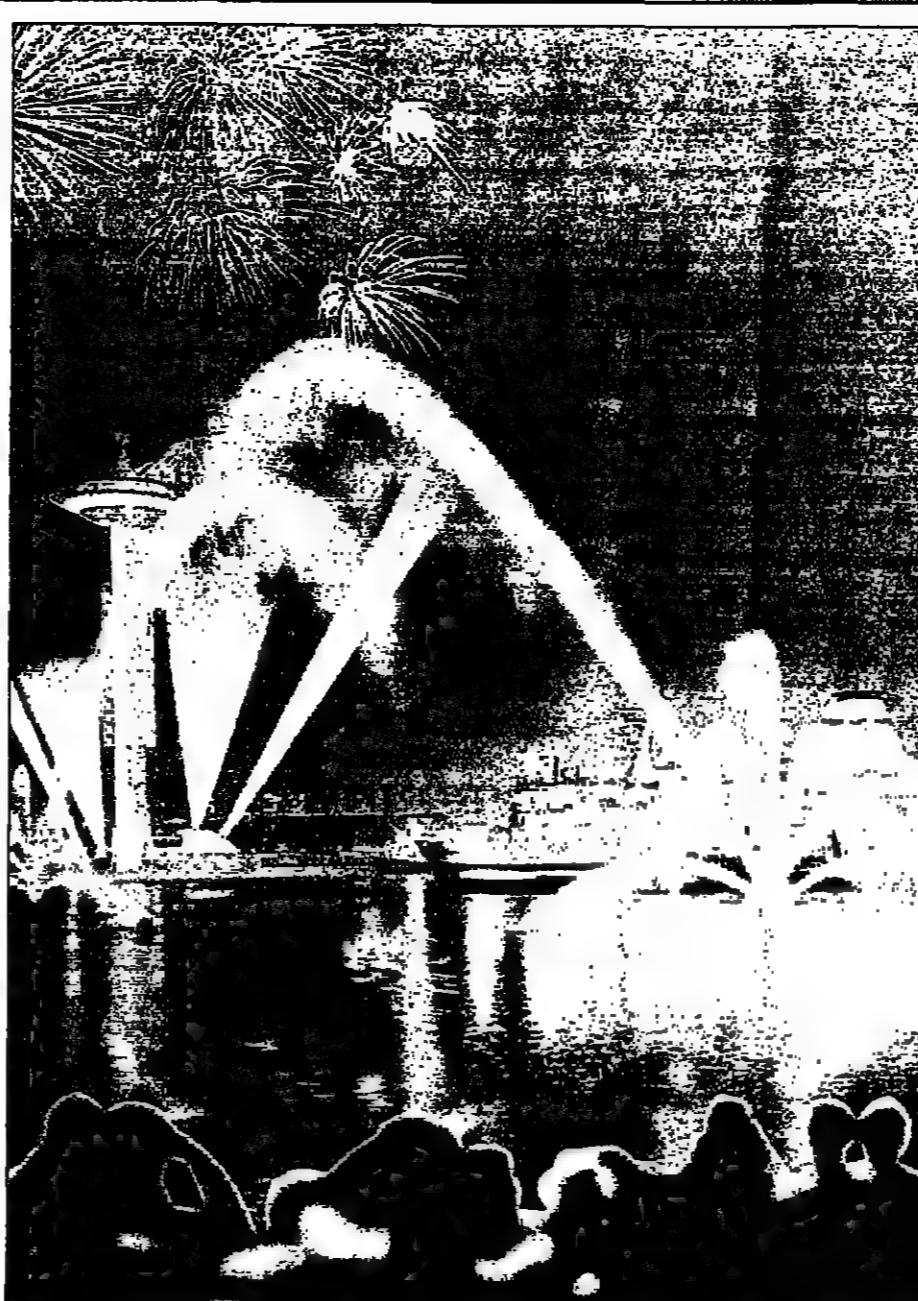
But the resourceful Spooner has gone to Geneva with his team to study the famous fountain on the lake. They are now planning two 150m Geneva-style vertical jets, which will tilt 45 degrees to meet and form a millennium "M", or a single 300m water arch. Lit by lasers, it will provide the world's first permanent night-time rainbow. Below water, fans will fire smaller plumes, like tugs

blasting their hoses to celebrate the arrival of a liner in port.

With advice from Speirs, the Edinburgh lighting consultancy, Portsmouth and Gosport are on course to providing a spectacular nightly 30-minute water show in which new water-buses will play a key role. Taking their cue from the illuminations at the Seville Expo, the planners also envisage a pair of 8m-high water curtains serving as giant projection screens.

Portsmouth harbour is a big place and the lights will have to be bright and colourful to register. Here, current concerns about light pollution — preserving the darkness of the night-time sky — are having an effect. Jonathan Speirs explains: "All our lighting will be environmentally sensitive, aimed at features, rather than just beamed up into the sky."

The biggest new attraction will be a high-tech, Navy-in-



A computer's eye view of how Portsmouth Harbour may look on December 31, 1999

action centre, telling the story of the modern Navy through large-format film shows. The Navy's top brass is suddenly taking a keen interest as it realises the recruiting potential.

This touches the core of the issue. For a century after Trafalgar, the Royal Navy was not only master of the oceans but the world's best public-relations outfit. Wherever a British ship came into port, whole towns went *en fete*.

Today the real glory of Portsmouth — the working dockyard — goes virtually unseen. *Times* readers may lament the steady decline in the numbers of fighting ships, but on a pre-Christmas tour of the dockyard I saw an awesome series of destroyers, frigates, minesweepers down from Scotland, not to mention *The Invincible* and *Britannia*. The sight of many of these sleek and sinister fighting machines moored alongside

or being overhauled in dry docks is overwhelming. Of course the Navy can't have people wandering the working dockyard at will, but the public could be bused around. It could become one of the most popular features of a day in Portsmouth.

Every visitor to the Royal Dockyard is potentially a lifelong friend of the Navy. The disappointment is that sailors are hardly in evidence in areas that the public visit.

The Changing of the Guard is London's top tourist attraction. Portsmouth should offer the naval version, complete with Royal Marine bands. The Navy itself, more than any number of millennium towers, water arches and promenades, could put Portsmouth on a par with Oxford, Cambridge and Stratford. If Bottomley wants dividends, *Racing Demon* wants dividends, spectacular naval pageantry could be the best investment of all.

VISUAL ART: How Berlin saw Moscow and vice versa

Best friends and deadly foes

Deep inside the Berlinische Galerie is a triptych of paintings that tells quite a tale. A portrait of Stalin is flanked on the left by a painting of the underground palaces of his Moscow Metro; and on the right — but at a much wider distance — by Sergei Lutshinskij's 1926 *The balloon has flown away*; two grey verticals of apartment blocks containing a central radiance of sky in which a tiny red balloon is disappearing.

This curiously asymmetrical hanging gives a clue to the genesis of *Moscow-Berlin. Berlin-Moscow 1900-1950*, an exhibition which provides both an illuminating context

and stimulating supplement for the Hayward Gallery's *Art and Power*. Jointly curated by Berlin and Moscow's Pushkin Gallery, the exhibition was conceived long before the Wall came down. Even as it was being mounted, Moscow insisted the paintings be hung in this way.

Where the Hayward's exhibition focuses on the fate of individual artists between 1930 and 1945, that at the Berlinische Galerie is held together by the tensions between forces and ideologies.

Art and politics, blood and night, upheaval and catastrophe intrude into every viewpoint, just as they crashed their way into the 20th century.

The exhibition is a cornucopia of German Expressionist art: Moscow, long deprived of a sight of the canvases, was greedy for as much Kirchner, Marc and Kandinsky as it could get its hands on.

After the October Revolution, Berlin was a centre of Russian immigration and a vibrant public platform for both proponents and opponents of the Revolution. Ivan Puni's *Synthetic Musician* of 1922, created in Berlin, became a symbol of the gallery itself.

But the Weimar Republic and the Moscow of the New Economic Policy were only temporary laboratories for Modernism. The exhibition shows the gradual erosion of liberties: the hardening of canvases into the fearful symmetries of Vladimir Vasiliev's *The Commanding Family* (1938) and Adolf Wissel's *Kalenberg Peasant Family* (1939), or Gerasimov's *Stalin on the Kremlin Wall*.

HILARY FINCH

■ Berlin-Moscow/Moscow/Berlin is at the Berlinische Galerie, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, 030 6169220 until Sun 11 opens at the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow (09 70 95 203369) on Mar 1

Men and women with adventurous spirit wanted to explore the furthest reaches of an unknown planet.

COPENHAGEN WEEKEND

March 7-10

WHAT better place to start the year of living continental than Copenhagen, Cultural Capital of Europe for 1996? The weekend begins with a sightseeing tour and a visit to a rehearsal by one of the many performing companies in the city. In the evening there is a visit to a musical about Denmark's best-loved writer, Hans Christian Andersen.

Saturday is free, giving members a chance to use their Copenhagen Card, which will give them free entrance to more than 60 museums and tourist ven-

Spend the weekend in wonderful Copenhagen



THEATRE CLUB

uses, as well as unlimited free

travel on buses and trains. In the evening there is a visit to a production by Remote Control, the magnificent company led by Michel Laub, whose recent work every month. Planned destinations include Barcelona, Berlin, St Petersburg, Prague, Vienna, Lisbon, Lyons and Malta. The cost of all the trips will include flights, accommodation, a cultural programme — and plenty of free time for you to spend exploring the cities on your own.

Working in association with Art Cities in Europe, an initiative of the Federation of European Cities Tourist Offices, we will be offering trips to a different city or region every month. Planned destinations include Barcelona, Berlin, St Petersburg, Prague, Vienna, Lisbon, Lyons and Malta. The cost of all the trips will include flights, accommodation, a cultural programme — and plenty of free time for you to spend exploring the cities on your own.

On Sunday we have ar-

anged a tour of the exhibition

Design and Identity at the Louisiana Museum, one of the world's finest repositories of modern art, which will also be housing an exhibition of works by Picasso.

The package costs £500

per person and includes

return flights, three nights in a four-star centrally located hotel, three dinners and two lunches, hotel transfers, tours, theatre tickets, a welcoming cocktail and the ser-

vices of a local guide. For further details, call the Theatre Club office on 0171-387 9673 and we will send you an itinerary. Individual events may change for organisational reasons.

WIN A FREE TICKET

■ To celebrate the launch of our European programme we are offering free places on the Copenhagen trip to a lucky member and their partner. Send your answers to the questions below to the Theatre Club, 81-103 Euston Street, London, NW1 2ET, to reach us by January 19.

1 Which British city was Cultural Capital of Europe in 1990?

2 What is the name of the famous amusement park in the centre of Copenhagen?

■ All our travel packages are being organised through Art Cities in Europe GmbH. For further details and a booking form telephone 0049 751 90730, or write to Art Cities in Europe GmbH, Raitenaustrasse 5, D-78464 Konstanz, Germany (fax 0049 751 90755).

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Eve takes the biggest bite of the Big Apple

THEATRE: Matt Wolf on the best — and worst — of the shows in a New York currently ruled by women

Step into a New York

ambitious aim is to chart the development of black America through movement, or, as the show's subtitle puts it, to offer "a tap/rap discourse on the staying power of the beat".

That the piece mostly meets its goal is a credit to the same savvy that Wolfe brought to Broadway's *Angels In America*, as well as a star, 22-year-old Savion Glover, whose feet glide effortlessly through the show's mix of history, sociology, and choreographic razzle-dazzle.

One only wishes urban rap poet Reg E. Gaines possessed the language to match the evening's varied moods — and moves.

A senior artist, Athol Fugard, achieves a compara-

bility. Fugard may have written more complex and searching works about a political system now dismantled. But it seems unlikely he has spoken so personally, as London will discover when *Valley Song* transfers later this month to the Royal Court.

Back on Broadway, Sunday saw the final performance of the season's boldest experiment so far: the New York premiere of *Racing Demon*, with Richard E. Gaines directing David Hare's 1990 play about the Anglican Church. Why "bold"? In part because a New York public could be forgiven for going snar on National Theatre's Imports to Lincoln Centre, since the same venue

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Costs order inappropriate

Fitzgerald and Others v Williams and Others
O'Regan and Others v Same
Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Orton
(Judgement December 20)

Having regard to articles 6 and 220 of the EC Treaty, the English court should not, in the exercise of its discretion, order security for costs under Order 23, rule 10(1)(a) of the Rules of the Supreme Court to be given by an individual plaintiff who was a national of and resident in another member state party to the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters [OJ 1972 L 299/32].

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plainiffs. 81 of whom were Irish citizens resident in the Republic of Ireland. Sir John Wood, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, who had ordered them to give security for the costs of the first defendant, Bryn Lloyd Williams, in the sum of £100,000 within 14 days in respect of the action they had brought against him and other defendants claiming damages for fraudulent misrepresentation and the recovery of sums allegedly belonging to them.

The court also allowed the plainiffs' appeal against further orders of Sir John Wood (i) discharging a Mareva (asset-freezing) injunction on the ground of non-disclosure, (ii) granting the first defendant leave to draw on funds to which the plainiffs made a proprietary claim, (iii) refusing to secure funds held by the sixth defendant for the fourth defendant, and (iv) as to mode of trial.

Mr Peter Haye and Mr A. Fraser-Urqhart for the plainiffs; Mr Andrew Macrae as amicus curiae; the first defendant in person.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, referring to the issue of security for costs, said that the question was whether the plainiffs who were resident in Ireland had Community law rights which the court had to respect by holding

that it had no jurisdiction to make an order for security against them, or, if it continued to have jurisdiction, by refraining from the exercise of its discretion to make an order.

His Lordship referred to *Porzleck KG v Porzleck (UK) Ltd* [1987] 1 WLR 423; *De Bry v Figerup* [1989] 1 WLR 552; and *Berkley Administration Inc v McClelland* [1990] 2 QB 407.

In that last case Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Russell, reversing the judge's decision and ordering security against plaintiff companies ordinarily resident in other Brussels Convention EC member states, had rested their judgments on the conclusion that Order 23, rule 10(1)(a) related to residence, not nationality, and thus did not discriminate, even covertly, on the ground of nationality as to any provision of the EC Treaty.

Lord Justice Stoughton had reached the same destination but by a different route, holding that a provision, such as that rule, directed at those not ordinarily resident in the UK was tantamount in its practical effect to a provision directed at nationals of other countries or principally affected such nationals.

He had then considered whether such different treatment was objectively justifiable and concluded that the conferment of a discretion was objectively justifiable. His preferred conclusion was that there was no discrimination under the rule since there was no different treatment which was not objectively justified.

The court was now asked to reconsider that line of authority in the light of *C-398/92 Mund and Fester v Hatrex International Transport* [1994] ECR I-467.

There the question was whether paragraph 91(2) of the German Code of Civil Procedure, in authorising seizure of assets where judgment was to be enforced abroad, even in a country which was party to the Brussels Convention, was contrary to the prohibition of discrimination in article 7, now article 6 of the EC Treaty.

The European Court of Justice had concluded that paragraph 91(2) fell within the ambit of the Treaty and that it entailed a covert form of discrimination, because while a judgment to be enforced abroad might be against a German national, the great majority of enforcements would be against persons who were not of German nationality or legal persons established in Germany.

The European Court had accepted that a presumption of difficulty in enforcing a judgment in a non-member country was legitimate, but held that such a presumption was not justified where enforcement was to take place in a member state party to the Convention. The court concluded that the provision was not justified by objective circumstances.

In the light of that decision His Lordship considered:

I do not rule out within the scope of the Treaty provisions?

The answer was affirmative. The factual distinction between the present rule and the German provision could not be held to support a difference of principle between them and the same legal rule governed both.

2. Did articles 6 and 220 of the EC Treaty confer rights directly enforceable in member states following legislative implementation of the Convention?

Again the answer was affirmative. The *Mund* decision clearly proceeded on that basis.

3. Was the rule discriminatory?

The rule plainly empowered the court to make orders against plaintiffs ordinarily resident out of the jurisdiction which it could not make against plaintiffs ordinarily resident within it. Therefore it involved discrimination in the sense used by the court in *Mund*, in that different plaintiffs were treated differently.

4. Was that discrimination based on nationality?

On its face the discrimination for which the rule provided was based on ordinary residence, not nationality. But there was a close

analogy with *Mund*. Just as most German judgments to be enforced outside Germany would not be against Germans, so most plaintiffs in England ordinarily resident outside the jurisdiction would not be British.

Just as paragraph 91(2) was held to be covertly discriminatory on ground of nationality, so the same conclusion had to follow in relation to the rule.

5. Was such discrimination on the ground of nationality justified in objective circumstances in relation to those who were nationals of and resident in other member states party to the Convention?

The rule did not impose an obligation on the court to make an order where the judgment would be more difficult to enforce abroad, and (b) it did not impose an obligation on the court to make an order where the condition for making it was satisfied, but conferred a discretion.

However, since a plaintiff suing in England, who was a national of and resident in another member state party to the Convention, had to protect not to be the subject of discrimination on the ground of nationality, it was necessary to ask whether any modification of English law or practices was called for to protect that right.

The answer compelled by *Mund* was that the English court should never exercise its discretion under the rule to order security to be given by an individual plaintiff who was a national of and resident in another member state party to the Convention, at any rate in the absence of very cogent evidence of substantial difficulty in enforcing a judgment in that other member state.

It was for present purposes unnecessary to form any view whether the qualification was sound in Community law. The question did not arise in the present case.

The evidence was that enforcement in Ireland was difficult, but rather that it presented no difficulty. It followed that no order for security should have been made against the Irish plaintiff.

Nothing in his Lordship's judgment bore on the case in which a plaintiff was sought against a foreign insolvent company whether resident in a member state or not.

Nor was it suggested that the traditional practice of the English court required any modification where the plaintiff was ordinarily resident in a country which was not a member of the Community.

Lord Justice Waite agreed and Lord Justice Orton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Marrache & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

Mr Allen Dyer for the company; Mr David Lord for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said at the trial before Judge Medawar

in *In re M (a Minor) (Habitual residence)*

Before Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Balcombe
(Judgment December 20)

A dispute over a child's habitual residence under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Schedule 1 of the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985) was a dispute about the child's future, not a dispute between the parents. It was to be determined as a matter of fact.

Habitual residence could not be acquired by a child who was not physically resident in the country concerned. The mere act of taking the child to a particular country might not be enough to confer habitual residence.

Where both parents had parental responsibility and had agreed where the child should live, one parent could not by a unilateral decision alter the child's habitual residence.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the father against a decision of Mrs Justice Bracewell made on the mother's application in *In re A (Wardship Jurisdiction) [1995] 1 FLR 767*.

In that case Mrs Justice Hale had held, apparently: "Even if the child had been such in agreement as would change the child's habitual residence for the time being, it would have required the continued agreement of both parents to make that situation

Company 'in person' cannot recover costs

Jonathan Alexander Ltd v Proctor

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Mr Justice Buxton
(Judgment December 21)

A company which instead of employing a director to act and appear for it in court proceedings was entitled to represent itself

Mr Dyer had submitted that the corresponding point was section 51 of the Supreme Court Act 1981, which he submitted gave the court the widest possible discretion in the award of costs. As a second line of argument he had submitted that the company was a litigant in person within the meaning of the *Litigant in Person* (Costs and Expenses) Act 1975.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Jonathan Alexander Ltd from an order of Deputy Judge Hunter made in West London County Court on June 3, 1994 that the appeal of the defendant, Armands Proctor, to quash the order for costs made by District Judge Trent on April 7, 1994 following the trial of his action for the unpaid balance of money due under a building contract he granted and declaring that the company having appealed at the trial by a director was not entitled to costs as a litigant in person.

In his Lordship's judgment it was important to note that the general discretion conferred on the court by section 51 of the 1981 Act was subject to the provisions of "this or any other enactment and of rules of court".

Mr Dyer submitted that crucial

issue was whether it could be said that the company was a litigant in ordinary meaning of "litigant in person". His Lordship would dismiss the appeal although with great regret since it revealed a serious lacuna in the law and resulted in considerable injustice to the company.

A simple amendment to the rules could bring company directors within the scope of "other representatives" under section 51.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said a company was a persona ficta. It was a consequence of the artificial nature of a company as a legal person that inevitably actions by it and decisions for it had to be taken by natural persons; the law of agency was at the root of company law.

The acts of the authorised agent, acting within the scope of his authority, were under ordinary

Alasdair Wilson for the mother; Miss Judith Hughes, QC and Mr Robert Cole for the Official Solicitor as guardian ad litem.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said the mother had been born and raised of Indian parents in Britain. The father had been born and raised in India. They had married by arrangement in India in April 1990. Their habitual residence at all material times had been in England and Wales. Both parents had parental responsibility. They had separated at the end of January 1994.

The parents had agreed that K should live with his paternal grandparents in India. In February 1994 K had gone to India. He had remained there since and had spent almost half his life there.

His Lordship had difficulty in following that particular piece of argument. It treated habitual residence as a legal concept whereas the House of Lords in *In re J (a Minor) (Abduction: Custody rights)* [1990] 2 QB 407 had said it was a question of fact.

Some one must be resident to acquire habitual residence. The child's residence in India could not become a residence in England and Wales without his ever having left the country. To hold otherwise would be to subvert the factual basis and change the definition of habitual residence in metaphysical legal concepts.

LORD JUSTICE MILLET said habitual residence was a question of fact, not an artificial legal construction. It was not possible for a person to acquire residence in a country while remaining throughout in another country. Neither parent could change the child's habitual residence unilaterally.

Having joint responsibility, the parents had decided K should be

continued. Despite the normal principle that each parent can act unilaterally if must be possible for either parent in that position, and in the absence of a court order, to revoke their agreement to their child being habitually resident abroad, so as to have the dispute between them resolved in their own home country where they had been born and raised.

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If a single parent sent a child to Australia and after years had passed decided the child should return, the only place for the dispute to be tried would be Australia.

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Predicting the media future, but without help from astrologers or any of the charlatans all too beloved of millennial society . . .

THERE is no point risking predictions on anything except dead certainties, such as this being the year when we all learn to spell millenarianism. Other inevitabilities for 1996:

• A rash of news stories about videocassette recorders stolen by thieves posing as men come to return the VCR for Channel 5.

• A "quiet" royal wedding that will attract as much publicity and prurient gossip as if it were held in the Abbey.

• The decomposition of ITV into one amorphous mass, as takeovers extinguish the hoary concept of "regions". Granada's Richard and Judy making their *This Morning* sofa from Liverpool London is just one sign.

• The outgoing Marmaduke Hussey being replaced as chairman of the BIC by someone other than Lord Owen. If the doctor could not sort out Bosnia, what could he do for the secretaries-started Beeb?

• Janet Street-Porter appointed

presenter of the Proms, as Radio 3 continues its drive for more accessible accents.

• Topless darts providing the guiding light to lead many reluctant viewers to the cabled glory of the Mirror Group's Live TV channel.

• Non-academics over 30 getting an e-mail address.

• Classic FM learning the hard way that joky commercials are not funny, especially the twelfth time round.

• A cessation of the Northern Ireland Office's sprightly advertising campaign to sell the bright side of Ulster.

• More *Sunday Telegraph* stories warning that amniocentesis is bad for you.

• Serial killers getting statutory rights to literary representation.

• The discovery that the new

Broadcasting Bill allows ITV giants to take over big newspapers as well as small television companies.

• Musical chairs continuing among the big names in national newspapers without any of the big names landing in television. There's still no proof that "bimediaworks" at the top.

• The shortage of newspaper easings but not the rise in newspaper and magazine cover prices.

• University courses in media and women's studies adding Dame Edna and Mrs Merton to the syllabus. Role models or hags?

• BBC press releases boasting how popular its *Pride and Prejudice* series is in the United States when in fact only a few million Public Broadcasting Service eggheads will watch it.

• Channel 4 to give real offence and run a "J'Accuse" against the Queen Mother for a stony ungraciousness towards her sister-in-law, the Duchess of Windsor, that set in train a royal hardness of heart from which the monarchy may never recover.

• A new hairdresser for HM the Queen.

• The British General Election and the American presidential elections to be held on the same day, thus cutting by half our exposure to over-crowded studio discussions, windblown pieces-to-camera and women's page analyses of the respective spouses' clothes and psyche.

• The Shopping Channel to sell groceries as well as brooches and bracelets.

• ITN's *News at Ten* and its *Channel 4 News* to stop acting as

found to shield children from the Internet because there is no way to stop pornography slipping into the stream.

• The *Reader's Digest* to win its fight to keep its apostrophe in the right place.

• This month's judicial review of the Independent Television Commission's contested award of the Channel 5 licence to end with no cloud over either the ITC's chairman, Sir George Russell, or its chief executive, David Glencross, two of the ablest and most unassuming public servants ever to grace broadcasting.

THE new year period is also a time for resolving to continue those habits of which you are proudest. Like avoiding any television sport is comparatively small, that (as proved by Hugh Grant) there is no such thing as bad publicity and that out of 500 channels people pick a few favourites and stick with those.

• Crown copyright to be abolished over the publication of legislation and parliamentary and judicial proceedings. Why should the Stationery Office have a monopoly on *Hansard* — and charge £4.20 a copy?

• A parental lockout code to be



BRENDA MADDOX

OTHER developments, while desirable, are less certain. For these, one can only hope:

• An end to fake-orgasmic weather reports which treat a (possibly) inch of snow as an imminent nuclear war and which, when it doesn't materialise, gasp with equal passion about the "new threat" — thaw.

• The Shopping Channel to sell groceries as well as brooches and bracelets.

• ITN's *News at Ten* and its *Channel 4 News* to stop acting as



Coca-Cola projects a friendly image, but what is the reality?

Private face behind the brand veil

How do companies measure up to their public image, asks Alan Mitchell

The Advertising Association expects marketers to spend £2.7 billion this year advertising their brands. Their creations — like the National Lottery liger, the Andrex puppy, the Teletoy tea folk, the PG Tip clowns and Coca-Cola's polar bears — will be talked about, laughed about, and become part of everyday culture.

But are these brand personalities, which marketers spend so much time and money developing, little more than illusions? A survey by the marketing consultancy Dragon International seems to expose the true face of the commercial world.

Many companies employ "mystery shoppers" to test their customer services. Dragon did the same, but with consumers' letters. It sent 50 famous brand names a set of six letters on issue ranging from environmental policy to why the product's price varies from shop to shop. Six letters came from a fictitious consumer but a real address.

The result? Many brands' much vaunted "values" emerge as something for public consumption only. The kind Teletoy tea folk for example, didn't get round to answering their letters. Persil, which portrays a caring image, coolly answered its miseries with a compliment slip and a pre-printed booklet.

Heinz, a supposedly warm, friendly family brand, produced stiff, formal replies. Dito young, informal Tango.

For many companies there was no apparent reason as to who responded to which letters. And many answers from high-profile brands such as Ariel, Tango, Kenco and Ribena came from faceless corporations — Procter & Gamble, Britvic Kraft Jacob-Schärd and SmithKline Beecham respectively — which consumers may have never heard of.

Others didn't take the time to read the consumer queries. A K. Wilson of Middlesex, for example, got short shrift from Coca-Cola when he asked: "Who owns you?" The response was: "We are always pleased to hear from our consumers and we do hope you will continue to enjoy our products for many years to come." McVitie's and KP Foods declined the opportunity to make a charitable donation, even when one hadn't been asked for.

On the other hand, some brands excelled themselves.

Bass asked *in* *see a copy of* Mrs Varley: daughter's finished homework assignment.

Whitbread (in behalf of Stella Artois) took full page to

own which licence to brew Stella. Likewise, Nestle (on behalf of Nescafe) gave a full-page explanation of its donations policy, while Whitbread's charities coordinator suggested he continue the conversation over the phone. Anchor Butler's brand manager even tried to phone a fictitious Mr Masters to explain his advertising policy.

But who cares how a company replies to a few letters? The answer, says Keith Wells, the Dragon International consultant who oversaw the project, is that consumers want to know what goes on behind the "brand veil". In the past, brands were like actors. It didn't matter what state they were in backstage as long as their public performances enthralled their audiences.

Today, just like film stars and royalty, we want to know about brands' private lives. If a brand is advertising its freshness and wholesomeness while its factories pollute the countryside, we want to know.

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Colgate went one better. The brand, which recently returned to its "ring of confidence" advertising theme, did much to boost poor old K. Wilson of Middlesex. A letter from consumer relations rebuked him with the following: "If we were to respond in detail to each request, the time devoted to the daily running of our business would be very limited.

Thank you for taking the trouble to contact us," it added, politely.

Panorama's king of scoops

Diana, Child B, the lottery:

Alexandra Frean talks to the man behind the bold new *Panorama*

When Steve Hewlett joined *Panorama* a year ago as editor with a brief to put the programme prominently back on the broadcasting map, he never dreamt he was about to produce the most-watched programme of the year. *Panorama's* exclusive interview with the Princess of Wales in November was watched by 22.8 million people, making it the third highest-rating BBC programme since the current audience measurement system was introduced in 1981.

There have been other triumphs, too. The programme's moving edition in October about Jayne Bowen, the 11-year-old leukaemia patient first known as "Child B" who was refused treatment by Cambridge Health Authority, provided the first pictures and interview with the little girl whose plight had moved the entire nation. *Panorama's* investigation into the National Lottery in December, in which the entrepreneur Richard Branson accused a business rival of attempted bribery, triggered a series of sensational revelations in the Commons and in the media about the way the lottery is regulated.

"Obviously, with Diana, Child B and the lottery, the idea was to seize opportunities that would enable us to break through, by which I mean get noticed," Mr Hewlett says. Mr Hewlett hopes that such headline-grabbing programmes will help to give *Panorama* a new, more relevant image. "I want people to say, 'Oh, it's *Panorama* . . . I wonder what's on it tonight' instead of 'Pass the remote control,'" he says.

Getting *Panorama* noticed has not always been an entirely happy experience, however. In April, Scottish judges stopped a *Panorama* interview with John Major from going out in Scotland three days before local elections there, because of complaints that it could be seen to have given the Conservatives an unfair electoral advantage.

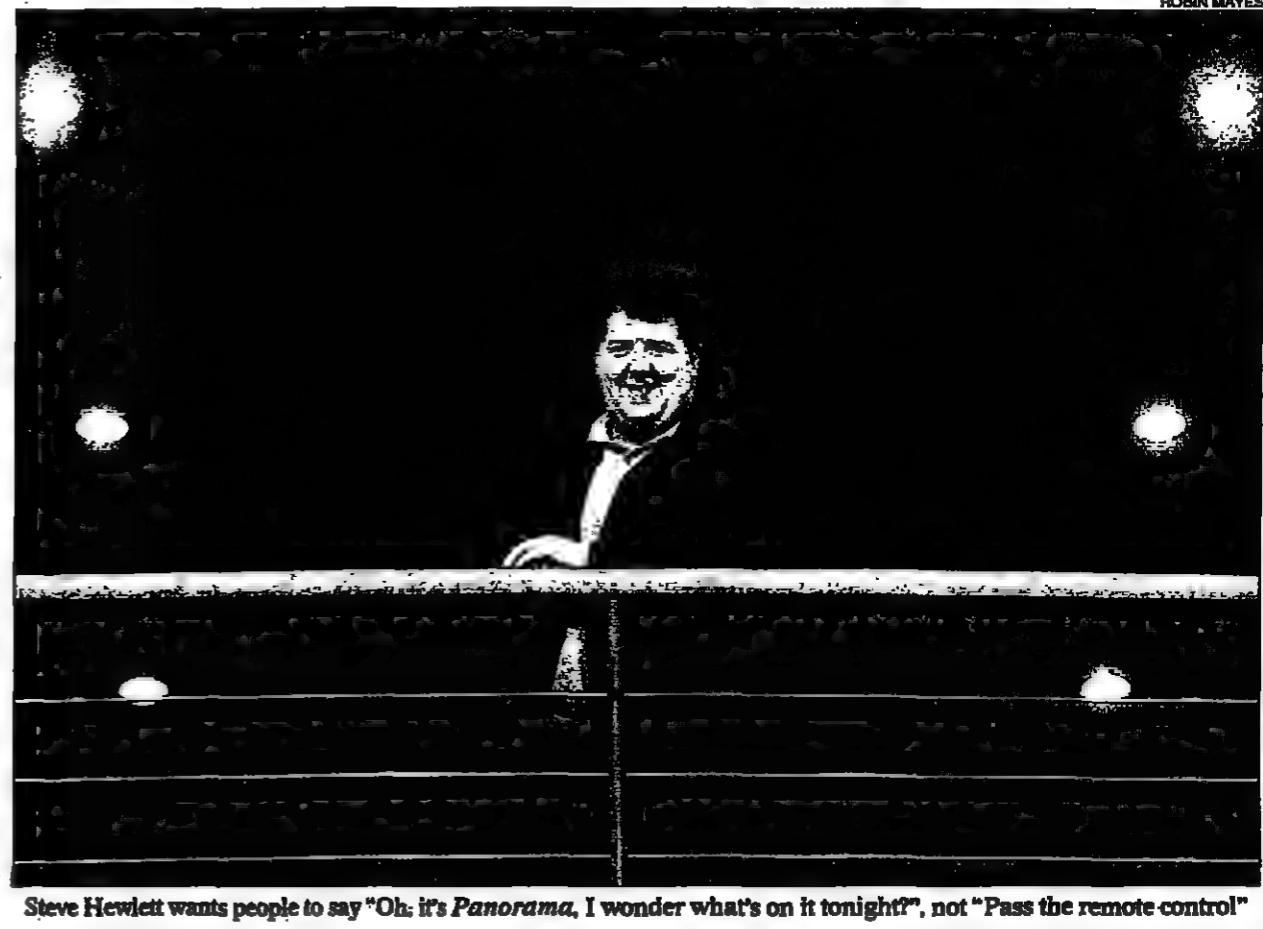
Adam Lury of the advertising agency Howell Henry Caldecott Lury agrees. "Increasingly, consumers want to ask the questions, and not just listen to what brand managers want to tell them."

Mr Wells ranked each brand's response for its speed, tone, quality, accuracy and fullness. The conclusion for many is could try harder.

Tak-Sok Lager, which tried to fob off the letters. Owner Carlsberg Tetley penned exactly the same letter from the same person on the same day in answer to all the letters. "As you will appreciate," it reads, "we receive many letters of this type and while we are always keen to help, it is important that we do not disclose commercially sensitive information. I would therefore be grateful if you could call me to confirm your exact requirements."

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Steve Hewlett wants people to say "Oh, it's *Panorama*, I wonder what's on it tonight", not "Pass the remote control"

cess of Wales was another example of addressing the political through the personal — although in this case there was clearly another agenda at work, too. Although *Panorama's* reporter, Martin Bashir, had been preparing a programme on the monarchy for six months, it was not until September that the possibility of an interview with the Princess of Wales surfaced. "We had been looking at some in the press about her and naturally, the programme would be focused on her," he says.

Mr Hewlett wants to talk about, but she did not get questions in advance."

Mr Hewlett, a father of two, takes no pleasure in the break-up of the Wales' marriage, but is enjoying the glory that the programme brought. The benefits for *Panorama* are clear, too. The week after the Diana interview a *Panorama* programme on race relations in the United States got an audience of four million — roughly a million more than would be expected for the subject. Subsequent editions about Yorkshire Water and the National Lottery also did better than expected.

Mr Hewlett believes that his successes at *Panorama* this year have also been based on his willingness to take risks.

The success of the Jayne Bowen programme, which took nine months to make, depended entirely on whether a court order preventing the child from being identified would be lifted.

Part of the confidence for taking such risks comes from experience. Mr Hewlett had high expectations. "Martin's great skill was in getting to the point where he had learnt quite a lot but was still able to maintain a professional distance. He discussed with her the areas that he

wanted to talk about, but she did not get questions in advance."

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Schedulers remember November

OUR ratings chart for the year to December 17 shows that eight of the top 20 places went to programmes screened in November.

The most-watched programme of the year — *Panorama's* sensational interview with the Princess of Wales — was a freak occurrence unlikely to be repeated.

The programme peaked at 23.4 million viewers and had an average audience of 22.8 million.

Early in the year, BBC1 trumpeted the return to form of its popular drama output and rolled out several new series, including *Bugs*, an action adventure series, starring Craig McLachlan (from *Neighbours*), Hamish Macbeth, Robert Carlyle and The Vet, starring Jennifer Holt. They won audiences of eight to 11 million, but not one made it to the Top 20.

The BBC's single outstanding drama success was *Casualty*, the hospital series now entering its tenth year. It achieved a peak audience of 16.7 million.

Formation of new Formula One team drives Britain's former world champion to most difficult test

Stewart's return sets up challenge to old order

Oliver Holt reveals why the man who steered clear of risk decided to form his own team

The motor show hardly ever stops in Detroit, but tomorrow the high rollers are coming to Motown. From his home on the shores of Lake Geneva to this frozen city on the shores of Lake Erie, Jackie Stewart, the most successful Formula One racing driver Britain has had, is arriving to launch a new assault on the upper echelons of the sport.

Since he won the last of his three drivers' world championships in 1973, Stewart has remained aloof from grand prix racing, pursuing his interests, fraternising with royalty and running a highly successful shooting school. Amid the legion of tales of sportsmen who cannot cope with their removal from the limelight at the end of their glittering careers, he seemed a glorious exception.

He came to occasional races, of course, largely to commentate, and he was chairman of Paul Stewart Racing, a team latterly run by his son, Paul, which was one of the most successful in the junior formulas. It was obvious, though, that his life had moved on and the huge bursts of adrenalin were coming from elsewhere. Yet now, the man who won 27 grands prix in 99 starts is back.

His involvement and his continuing influence within the sport makes this an effort that could change the face of grand prix racing, every bit as significant as Benetton's entry into the sport in the 1980s. Stewart Grand Prix represents a new challenge to the old order from one of its own. The big four of Williams, Benetton, Ferrari and McLaren, may soon become the big five.

"This is probably the biggest challenge of my life," Stewart said yesterday. "Paul and I talked for a long time about

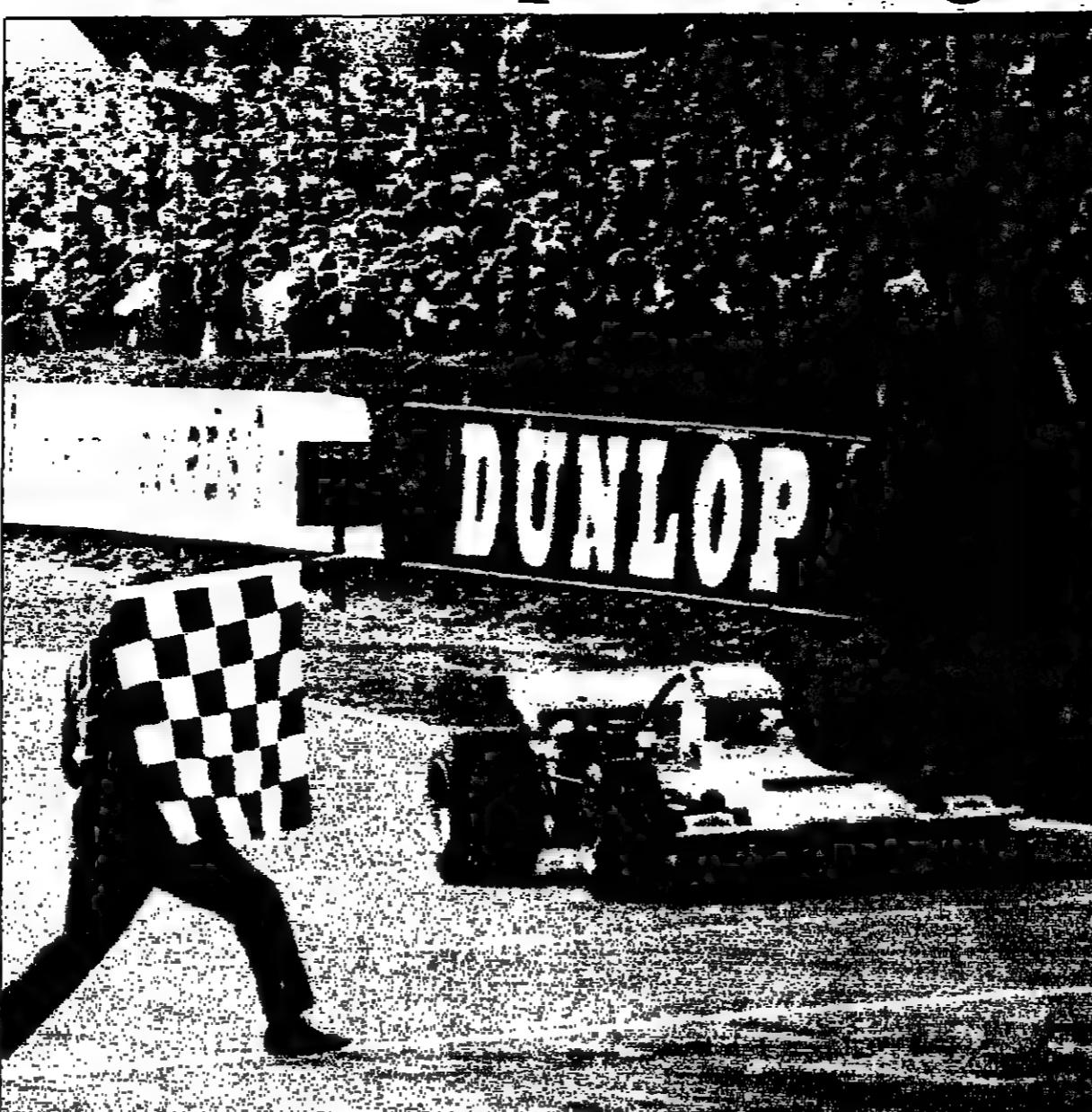
'He could change the whole face of grand prix racing'

Stewart Grand Prix, with him as chairman and Paul, who recently retired from an undistinguished racing career, as managing director, will burst on to the Formula One scene at the beginning of 1997, with an exclusive supply of the top-rank Ford engines.

No drivers have been mentioned yet, but Stewart has strong links with men like David Coulthard and Gil de Ferran, the IndyCar rookie of the year.

This will not be an effort like that produced by Pacific or Simtek, recent Formula One new boys who found they could not stand the heat. Stewart is building on strong foundations and is banking on heavy financial backing to allow him to challenge for the world championship within five years.

The key to his return was



Stewart raises his hand in salute as the chequered flag comes down to signal another victory, a scene followed inevitably by the presentation of the winner's garland, right.

whether we wanted to go into Formula One, but now we have taken the plunge. But the story of my life has been to remove the unnecessary hazards of a calculated risk-taker. That is why I am here to talk about this today, because I removed most of the hazards that could be removed when I was a driver.

"It is one thing being Jackie Stewart, the racing driver," he said, "and quite another to be Jackie Stewart, team owner. If I had tried to start my own team too early, it might have been a very expensive mistake. We will not go into Formula One in a half-hearted manner."

He has not returned in supplication, admitting that he can stay away no more, far from it. He is back because at last the time is right. Stewart is a calculating man, a man who built his racing life around avoiding risks, and the pieces are beginning to fall into place.

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the involvement of Ford, who powered each of his world championship wins with Tyrrell — in 1969, 1971 and 1973 — and with whom he has maintained a professional relationship ever since. The agreement will also mark Ford's return to big-time after their travails with McLaren and Benetton, with whom they nevertheless won the world championship, and their recent drift into the backwaters

of the sport with the Swiss team, Sauber.

"The involvement of Ford has been immensely important," Stewart said yesterday, before he left for the company's world headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan, where the official announcement of his involvement will be made tomorrow. "For them to make the decision to choose us is an enormous privilege."

Stewart's career began at a

time when racing was considered a pure sporting activity. No advertising was allowed on cars and he was competing with the icons of the British racing establishment, men such as Graham Hill and Jim Clark. A little like Alain Prost, he quickly gained a reputation for brilliant percentage driving, eschewing the spectacular for steady, atritional performances.

He was instrumental in changing the attitude of the racing fraternity towards circuit medical standards in particular and retired one race short of his hundredth grand prix when he refused to take part in the last race of the 1973 season as a mark of respect for his team-mate, Francois Cevert, who had been killed during practice for the race, the United States Grand Prix.

He is confident, though, that he can bridge the gap in racing



and be serious contenders for the world championship," Stewart said, "but you have to remember: it took Frank Williams ten years."

Stewart, who will attend all the grands prix and scale down his involvement in other projects to concentrate on Formula One, is planning to finance his operation handsomely with a network of long-term sponsors, which could create a financial windfall.

"Within the first five years, I would like to win a grand prix

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Rangers' domination under threat

Celtic can confirm title aspirations in Old Firm match

By KEVIN McCARRA

WHERE Old Firm games are concerned, Celtic have, over many years, inadvertently established themselves as the masters of the trivial victory. They have been adept at wounding Rangers' pride, but never at delivering the mortal blow. A 3-0 win for Celtic last season, when the Bell's Scottish League premier division title had already moved far beyond their reach, was typical.

Tonight's Old Firm game, at Celtic Park, brings another opportunity to determine whether the gap between the clubs in resolution this new year is as great as ever. One has to go back to a Tennents Scottish Cup tie in 1991 to find the last occasion when Celtic, with a 2-0 win, inflicted structural damage on Rangers.

The Ibrox club may feel, following the 7-0 victory over an embarrassing Hibernian side on Saturday, as if they will continue to be impregnable. Rangers' squad is stronger than it has been all season and a talisman has recovered his fitness. Ally McCoist, an invertebrate soarer against Celtic, is free of his calf strain, even if he must start tonight's Old Firm game on the substitutes' bench.

The Rangers manager, Walter Smith, however, recognises that Celtic now present a higher order of challenge than at any stage in his club's seven-season domination of the premier division. Celtic have not recorded a victory in an Old Firm match at New

Year since 1988, but that is hardly likely to prey on the players' minds after the past few months spent charting fresh territory.

Tommy Burns' team, after

years of dejection, have re-

stored Celtic's reputation for

flair and consistency. It only

remains to be seen whether

the improved image is sturdy

enough to remain undented by

an encounter with Rangers.

Should Celtic win, they will

have the potential to establish a

one-point lead over their

greatest rivals.

Burns has been satisfied by

the progress of his players, but

not surprised. "I knew what

they were capable of if they

could add hunger and determina-

tion to their game, and they

have done that," he said.

Nevertheless, Rangers remain

the most difficult of quarry,

having lost just one league

game so far this season.

Nowadays, the remainder of

Scottish football is no more than

a backdrop to the Old Firm

duel. Hibernian, for

instance, may be in third

place, but they are still ten

points behind Celtic, despite

having played two games

more. Both clubs have shown

a great deal of consistency,"

Smith said, "and it could be

that the decisive factor in the

championship will be the four

Old Firm matches."

Rangers have already taken

a win and a draw from the

first two derby games in the

League and sense their own

gathering strength. "We have

had good results despite some

erratic performances," Smith

said, "but now the team is

settling down and starting to

play some good football. Brian

Laudrup is just coming back

to top form after missing eight

weeks with an ankle injury."

Therefore, Rangers may feel

confident of an eighth consecutive

championship, taking them closer to eclipsing the

record of nine successive titles

set by Celtic between 1966 and

1974 under the management of

Jock Stein.

"Any player with this club,"

Burns said, "knows the importance of that achievement to our supporters, but we cannot become obsessed. Some people want to think that if we do not stop Rangers, Celtic will fall away, but that is nonsense. The important thing for us is to ensure that Celtic get stronger year by year and that will happen."

He believes, all the same, that

his team are growing in the

mental hardness required to

challenge Rangers. Mulling

over his assortment of experienced men, such as Paul

McStay, foreign signings, like

Andreas Thom, and youngsters, of whom Simon Donnelly

is the most exciting example, Burns insisted:

"They all want their turn at

glory, but it won't just come to them. They've got to take it."

Against a formidable and skilled Rangers side, it is

Celtic's capacity to seize the

moment that provides the

unknown, and intriguing

quantity in the match.



Ally McCoist, often the scourge of Celtic, may be on the Rangers bench tonight

Havelange says Africa will host World Cup in 2006

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOÃO Havelange, the president of Fifa, football's world governing body, wants the 2006 World Cup finals to be played in Africa.

"It [African football] is the football of the future," Havelange said. "To reward the progress that has been made, I will tell Nelson Mandela [the South African President] on January 10 that the 2006 World Cup will be on their continent. Africa has the right to hold its first World Cup."

Havelange is due in South Africa next week ahead of the African nations' cup, which begins there on January 13.

The Fifa president indicated

on a trip to Moscow in

November that the idea of continents taking turns to host the World Cup was under-

going "active discussion" and

would mean the finals would be held in Asia in 2002, in Africa in 2006, in South America four years later and then North America.

The next finals are to be held in France in 1998 and Fifa will decide on June 1 whether the 2002 World Cup will be held in Japan or South Korea.

The decision to award the 2006 finals will not be taken for another four years and is a matter for the whole of Fifa, not just its

president.

The future of basketball-style time-outs, an innovation already being tested, looks uncertain. "Footballers are so conservative," Blatter said, "so the mood in favour of time-outs is currently under 50 per cent. The matter is not quite finished with, but the trend is negative."

Blatter denied that Fifa saw

time-outs as a way of intro-

ducing more time for tele-

vision advertising. "The idea

came from the trainers. They

complained they had too little

time on the bench."

In international circles,

Havelange's comments may

be seen as part of his power

struggle with Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, the

European governing body,

and a decided candidate for the Fifa presidency at the next elections in 1998. Havelange said in 1994 that his sixth four-year term as Fifa president, ending in 1998, would be his last, but his stance has changed since then and he has openly suggested that he may

stand again.

Havelange has also attract-

ed controversy regarding a

promise he reportedly made

that the 1997 world youth

championship would be trans-

ferred to Nigeria from Malaysia. It has prompted Johansson to remind the parties that no decision had been

taken on any transfer and that

if there were to be a change it

would have to be referred back

to the appropriate committee for discussion.

When the matter came be-

fore Fifa's executive committee in Paris three weeks ago, it

voted to stay with Malaysia,

despite Havelange's earlier

pledge.

Fifa plans to move goalposts in bid to entertain

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

Fifa proposes to move the goalposts farther apart and raise the crossbar to make football more attractive. Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of the game's world governing body, said yesterday.

The guardians of the rules [the International Board] are in agreement to widen the goals by the diameter of two balls around 50 centimetres (19.685in), and to increase the height by the diameter of one ball," he said.

Blatter added that the board would reach a formal decision in March and this would be followed by a trial period. However, no change will be introduced before the 1998 World Cup with the current rules," Blatter said.

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pledge.

discouraged committee, Geoff Thompson, who is a Yorkshire JP and secretary of the Sheffield and Hallam association.

Hill stock is high after he

presided over the "trial" of

George Graham.

Thompson delivered a harsh judgment

that the former Arsenal manager

Andrew soon back in the big time

Winnington Park welcome lucrative cup-tie with Wasps

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WINNINGTON PARK'S reward for making their way into the fifth round of rugby last summer, has joined the Park's coaching panel and there has been speculation that he will play again this year — though not necessarily for the first XV.

One of Park's rising players, John Farr, is at scrum half and it would be harsh to dislodge a player who has taken them so far this season and also earned divisional honours with the Midlands. Nor would it encourage the team containing several of Andrew's former England colleagues.

The way forward in the long term for Park may be determined at a members' meeting on January 11; in the short term, their problem will be to 'beg, borrow or steal', according to their president, Roy Palin, a temporary stand for what is likely to be the biggest crowd to be seen at their ground.

"We would have preferred someone like Leeds, in the hope of realising the quarter-finals," Palin said. "But we are pleased it is Wasps because they play a similar type of rugby to us. We have a side geared to running rugby and our coach, Doug Hill, encourages all the players to express themselves."

Hill, once of Coventry and Moseley before playing rugby league for St Helens and Blackpool Borough, helped groom the young Dewi Morris at scrum half before Morris burst onto the international scene in 1988. Now Morris,

DRAW

FIFTH ROUND

West Hartlepool v Coventry, Bedford v Runcorn, First, Wakefield v Bath, Newcastle v Harlequins, Notting-ham v Gloucester, Leicester v Saracens, Winnington Park v Wasps. Matches to be played on January 27

"The poachers have been out with a vengeance around us," Palin said. "Clubs with money want to take advantage of players who have come through our mini and junior sections."

An average gate at Winnington Park would be around 300, although they packed in 1,000 for the fourth-round defeat of Lydney. Yet in rural Cheshire they are not short of space and Palin talked confidently of accommodating

Cardiff look forward to big crowd for final

CARDIFF hope that the first European cup final will produce a gate exceeding 20,000 on Sunday (David Hands writes). A sensible pricing policy and attractive visitors, in Toulouse, saw 5,000 tickets sold yesterday alone, when the Welsh Rugby Union opened after the Christmas break.

Prices of £10 and £5 for the Heineken Cup final represent good value, with Toulouse expected to bring at least 700 of their own supporters. The final is also a late opportunity for Cardiff players to impress a police escort from the pitch.

SPORTSMEN

Strang spearheads Zimbabwe attack

BRYAN STRANG produced an outstanding bowling performance to take six for 20 in 18 overs as Zimbabwe bowled a New Zealand President's XI out for 111 at Victoria Park, Wanganui, yesterday. However, Zimbabwe struggled in reply and were 91 for six at the close. Only four players made double figures for the President's XI, with middle order batsman Stephen Lynch top-scoring with 30.

Strang took full advantage of a green wicket and, bowling at lively medium pace, took five for two in 20 balls in one spell after lunch. Zimbabwe ran into trouble early in their reply and the only resistance came from the experienced David Houghton and left-hander Sean Davies, who added 53 for the fourth wicket.

USC lift Rose Bowl

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Northwestern University's surprise season of success came to an end when they were beaten 41-32 by the University of Southern California (USC) in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. USC trailed 32-3 with seven minutes left, but secured victory after an interception that enabled Delon Washington to score the crucial touchdown. Keyshawn Johnson, the USC receiver, set a Rose Bowl record with 12 catches for 216 yards and a touchdown. Brad Ottoson, their quarterback, completed 29 of 44 passes for 391 yards and two touchdowns.

Gie provides impetus

CRICKET: The England Under-19 team made a successful start to their tour of Zimbabwe yesterday, winning a one-day match against a Zimbabwe Under-18 XI by two wickets at St John's College. The Yorkshire bowlers, Paul Hutchison (three for 26) and Gareth Batty (two for 25), restricted the home side to 162, only for England to make hard work of reaching this modest target, winning with ten balls to spare. Noel Gie, of Nottinghamshire, led them home with an unbeaten 41 containing two sixes and three fours.

Regan reinstated

BOXING: Robbie Regan, of Wales, was yesterday restored as the International Boxing Federation's interim flyweight champion. Regan, 27, knocked out Ferid Ben Jeddou, of Tunisia, last month to win the title and earn a crack at Danny Romero, of the United States, who had to put aside the crown because of serious facial injuries. The federation last week nominated another American, Mark Johnson, to meet Romero on February 2, but Romero says he can no longer make the eight-stone limit.

Fordham's bright start

DARTS: Andy Fordham, a semi-finalist 12 months ago, made a promising start to his Embassy world professional championship challenge at the Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green, yesterday. Fordham, the No 2 seed, beat Chris Mason 3-0. Since the championship last year, Fordham has won the Norway Open, the British Match Play and the Isle of Man tournament and is a strong contender for the £36,000 first prize. Andy Jenkins, who beat Bruno Soares 3-0, will meet Fordham tonight.

Atherton falls to enemy behind the arras

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

Perhaps we all have a Widmerpool: a figure who haunts our worst moments, who, by some strange powers of malice, is almost unconsciously capable of wreaking havoc in our lives. For it is never quite clear whether these people are there by coincidence, as catalysts for the process of malice; or whether they work the malice wilfully. Or both.

These two clubs represent the changing face of rugby at the highest domestic level and the draw is exactly what ambitious Newcastle were seeking. Not only do they want to employ good players, they want quality opposition in the North East and Harlequins — against whom they played three cup-ties between 1978 and 1983 — offer such a prospect, with established players such as Will Carling, Jason Leonard and Jim Staines.

Bath, the cup-holders, travel to Widmerpool, while Leicester entertain Saracens, a tie that offers them the chance to exact revenge for the unexpected league defeat they suffered at Soutgates in November. Another tantalising morsel will be the game at Goldington Road between Bedford, coached until recently by Mike Rafter, and Bristol, Rafter's former club.

Of more immediate concern to the leading clubs is the impact of the weather on league fixtures. Only yesterday were Bath able to start ironing out the recent ravages of winter on their Recreation Ground pitch. They are one of several clubs who have provisionally agreed to play a postponed game on January 13 — scheduled as an England training weekend.

They will have sympathy with Pontypridd, who have hinted at an extension to the season as their backlog of postponed league fixtures builds up. They have not played a Heineken League game since December 2.



Atherton trudges off at Newlands yesterday, dismissed without scoring. Photograph: Graham Morris

Courtney Walsh giving a sublime performance of impersonal enmity. "Diabolical," Atherton said of the pitch, but his personal devil was not grass and soil, but Atkinson.

And so, yesterday, Atherton, the most-prized wicket in any Test match he plays in, was out for nought. Inevitably cursed the good colonel, and she broke her ankle.

Just because you're paranoid, it doesn't mean they're not out to get you. An old saying, a true one for Michael Schumacher. The season before last, Max Mosley, the president of Fisa, the sport's governing body, seemed to run a personal campaign against Schumacher and his team.

I once walked the Badminton cross-country course with Gunny Leng, as she then was. She made perhaps three remarks to me in the course of a three-hour stroll. One only printable one was: "Look what that bastard's done now."

The "bastard" in question was Colonel Frank Weldon, then the course builder. His avowed aim — to frighten the living daylights out of the

riders (but not, of course, the horses) — saw him promoted by Leng into a personal devil, an enemy to overcome at all costs.

No doubt such an approach helps in preparation. On this occasion, Leng fell at the very fence where she had so roundly cursed the good colonel, and she broke her ankle.

Most of the ghosted autobiographies that haunt the crypts of sport rail against hidden enemies. I have Nigel Mansell's and Linford Christie's books beside me, lucky person that I am. "He would pick on me for no obvious reason. I have had a personal dislike of Frank's attitude ever since."

"My mistake with Prost was that I have always believed that everybody's all right until proven otherwise."

Frank is Frank Dick, then national director of coaching. Prost being Alain, Mansell's then team-mate. Hidden enemies within: a class quite distinct from opponents on the track or on the pitch.

Some athletes, consciously or unconsciously, use enemies

as the most potent force for motivation. For others, enemies are a heaven-sent excuse for defeat. For every Linford Christie, there are probably a thousand Jeff Tarango. Tarango, you will recall, went berserk at Wimbledon, accusing an umpire of acting as his personal Widmerpool. There are people whose failure must be blamed on outside forces, backstairs influence, hidden enmity, the enemy behind the arras.

Enmity is an equivocal thing. It legitimises failure; it inspires the greatest successes. How many athletes, in the moment of supreme triumph, have turned with rage on the press? Bob Willis did in his lines hour at Headington in 1981; Sebastian Coe did it in Los Angeles in 1984. The press does a great job; where would our champions be without hidden enemies to inspire them?

Battling Huber sets up victory

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

A SPIRITED fightback by Martin Sinner and Anke Huber helped Germany to beat Holland 21-18 in their Hopman Cup group B encounter in Perth, Australia, yesterday. The German pair lost the first set of the decisive mixed doubles encounter with Richard Krajicek and Brenda Schulz-McCarthy, but rallied to win 2-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Huber, 21, got Germany off to a good start by overcoming Schultz-McCarthy 6-3, 6-4, 7-6, but Krajicek, ranked No 11 in the world, kept Dutch hopes alive with a thrilling victory over Sinner, the world No 47, 7-5, 5-7, 7-6.

Huber battled back superbly after the explosive services of the Dutch player had overwhelmed her in the opening set of their women's singles encounter. Schultz-McCarthy served 20 aces in the match, Huber did not manage one. In a tensely-fought tie-break, Huber took a 3-0 lead before Schultz-McCarthy drew level at 6-6, but Huber showed the better temperament as she held her nerve to win.

Nicolas Kiefer, a qualifier, was one of three victorious

won," Huber said after the match.

Krajicek took the opening set in the men's singles after breaking Sinner's service in the eleventh game, but, like his compatriot a couple of hours earlier, Sinner staged a wonderful recovery to take the second set. Fortunes fluctuated in a point-for-point third set, decided when Krajicek clinched the tie-break 7-4.

In the evening session, France, their No 6 seeds, kept alive their slim hopes of advancing from group A with a 2-1 victory over the South Africans. Amanda Coetzer put the No 4 seeds in front with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Catherine Tanvier, but Arnaud Boetsch then beat Wayne Ferreira 7-6, 7-6.

The French pair then won the decisive mixed doubles match 6-2, 7-6, with Ferreira, who has a broken bone in his right hand, carrying his poor singles form into the decider.

"I still haven't won a match here, so I'm a little disappointed," Ferreira said. "My serve isn't helping me a lot and you can't beat guys like Boetsch with your second serve."

Nicolas Kiefer, a qualifier, was one of three victorious

Germans in the first round of the Australian hard court championships in Adelaide.

He beat Jonas Bjorkman, the world No 30 from Sweden, 6-2, 6-1 to set up a second-round meeting with Martin Damann, of the Czech Republic.

Joining Kiefer in the last 16

were Jörn Renzenbrink and Carl-Uwe Steeb, who beat Jan Krosak, of Slovakia, and Richard Fromberg, an Australian, respectively.

Renzenbrink won his game by default when Krosak withdrew with a sprained right ankle midway through the second set. The German, who

had been held her nerve

Huber: held her nerve

Taylor takes up the reins with Towers

By NICHOLAS HARLING

RICK TAYLOR, the enterprising entrepreneur chiefly responsible for bringing record crowds to British baseball games at Manchester Giants, has turned his attention to the capital's top club, London Towers. It was with the blessing of the Giants, whose managing director he was for the past three years, that Taylor yesterday confirmed his appointment with the Towers in a similar capacity.

The American, 39, from San Diego, arrived on the English baseball scene in the mid-Eighties as coach and general manager at Hems Hempstead — whose managing director he was for the past three years, that Taylor yesterday confirmed his appointment with the Towers in a similar capacity.

The testimony to his outstanding endeavours was the 12,620 crowd in the Nynex Arena for the opening day of the season against the Leopards. Since then, the average has levelled off at around 7,000. "Someone like Rick would be a great asset," chairman, said yesterday. "He will be a great asset."

Hendry's winning run under threat

STEPHEN HENDRY'S 22-match, eight-month unbeaten run on British soil could easily come to an end when professional snooker's first tournament of 1996, the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge, gets under way at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham today (Phil Yates writes).

Hendry, whose last defeat

in a domestic event was by John Parrott in the quarter-

finals of the British Open last April, has a tough first-round draw against John Higgins, who is second, behind Hendry, in the provisional world rankings. Higgins, 20, has every reason to be confident after closing his 1995 campaign with a victory in the German Open three weeks ago.

With a total prize fund of £150,000, it is hardly surprising that all but two of the world's top 16 players — Steve Davis and James Wattana — have accepted invitations to compete. Davis is taking part in the world trick shot championship in Sun City, South Africa, while Wattana will not return from his annual mid-season break at home in Thailand until the Regal Welsh Open later this month.

Even if Hendry, who is

representing the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, clears his first hurdle, he will need to beat his sharpest to make a successful defence of the title for he is in by far the strongest half of the draw. It also includes Jimmy White, Peter Ebdon, Alan McManus and Nigel Bond, the runner-up in the world championship last year.

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South African cricket welcomes the Cape Coloured it once spurned

D'Oliveira remains on England's side

Simon Wilde meets a cricketer whose life is inextricably linked with images of a nation's history

Another day in South Africa, another peace made with the past. Basil D'Oliveira, whose life is inextricably linked with one of the darkest periods in his country's history, yesterday paid his first visit in 38 years to Newlands Cricket Ground, an arena which, in more civilised times, he would probably have regularly graced.

D'Oliveira was born only a few miles from the ground, at Bo-Kaap, in the shadow of Table Mountain, and played for St Augustine's, a local club, but his career — he was a talented all-rounder — was frustrated by apartheid. His club was forced to relocate under the infamous Group Areas Act and he had to emigrate to England to find fulfilment.

The United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), which is sensitive to these things, did not let yesterday's occasion go unmarked. D'Oliveira was the guest of honour at a lunch on the ground at which were present prominent figures from the South African government and, seemingly, most of the administrators of English cricket. Raymond Illingworth sat down to lunch in incongruous fashion, reflector sunglasses perched stubbornly upon his head. D'Oliveira was seated between Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Ali Bacher, the managing director of the UCBSA.

Also invited were several leading activists for multi-racial sport in the "old" South Africa, such as Sam Ramsamy, but there was nobody, apparently, representing the late John Vorster, the Prime Minister whose intransigent response to D'Oliveira's inclusion in the England team to tour his country in 1968-69 led to the abandonment of the tour and started South Africa's sports exile.

In his speech of welcome, Bacher perhaps overstated his case by describing D'Oliveira as "one of the most famous people in South Africa's non-racial society", for D'Oliveira has not returned to live in his native land since he left for England in 1960. Indeed, this visit, as a guide to a group of England supporters, is only his fourth time back.

Bacher said that South Africa regarded D'Oliveira as one of its greatest sporting sons. "Although we know you have affiliations with English cricket, and respect them, we also know that deep down we will always regard you as South African. Thank you for transforming this society."



Adams, the Cape Coloured who followed D'Oliveira in playing for St Augustine's, can enjoy a prominent role in South Africa's future

D'Oliveira was then presented with a tie and cuff-links by Kris Mackendrij, the president of the UCBSA, who, in doing so, said "welcome back to the soil that bred you".

D'Oliveira, looking youthful for his 64 years and characteristically wearing a Worcestershire blazer, was too overcome by emotion to respond publicly, but said later that he was surprised and pleased by the board's gesture. He said that it showed that finally "it is finished, it is all over now".

D'Oliveira said that he had been greeted by many people on his visit. "All sorts of people have come up to me in the street and thanked me," he said. "Only the other day, I was sitting at the Waterfront and a white man came up to me and said that he wanted to thank me for a beer. I asked him why. 'Because you're Basil D'Oliveira, aren't you?' he said. 'I want to thank you for all you've done for us'."

As he spoke, the match resumed after lunch. Donald bowled his first over and promptly took the wickets of Thorpe and Hick. D'Oliveira became enraptured by the South African's wonderful fast bowling skills. Suddenly a thought flashed across the mind. "You're not supporting them these days, are you?" He smiled. "No, no," he said. "I'm still on England's side."

It was entirely appropriate that South Africa's team in this match should contain a Cape Coloured in Paul Adams, who, as chance would have it, also plays for the St Augustine's club. It had been hoped D'Oliveira could meet Nelson Mandela, the President of South Africa, but it proved difficult. Adams met Mandela at an airport base on Monday, the president saying that the teenager had "aroused South African national pride more words can say".

The last match D'Oliveira watched at Newlands was a Test match involving Australia in 1958. He watched the game from the small grass

verge that constituted the non-white areas of the ground. He never played in a match on the ground himself. Having moved to England, he appeared in the Lancashire leagues and for Worcestershire before playing 44 Test matches for England between 1966 and 1972.

D'Oliveira said that he had been greeted by many people on his visit. "All sorts of people have come up to me in the street and thanked me," he said. "Only the other day, I was sitting at the Waterfront and a white man came up to me and said that he wanted to thank me for a beer. I asked him why. 'Because you're Basil D'Oliveira, aren't you?' he said. 'I want to thank you for all you've done for us'."

As he spoke, the match resumed after lunch. Donald bowled his first over and promptly took the wickets of Thorpe and Hick. D'Oliveira became enraptured by the South African's wonderful fast bowling skills. Suddenly a thought flashed across the mind. "You're not supporting them these days, are you?" He smiled. "No, no," he said. "I'm still on England's side."



D'Oliveira, the England player, coaching youngsters in Cape Town in 1966

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Sri Lanka ready to risk Muralitharan

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SRI LANKA are likely to play their controversial off spinner, Muttiah Muralitharan, in the World Series Cup game against the West Indies in Hobart today, even though he was not-balled seven times for throwing in the second Test against Australia in Melbourne on Boxing Day. He has already been named in the party for next month's World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Darrell Hair, the Australian umpire who called Muralitharan from the

bowler's end at Melbourne, will not be on duty in Tasmania and Diluper Mendis, the team manager, said yesterday that the bowler was likely to play.

Sri Lanka beat West Indies in their first meeting in the competition in Adelaide last month, but West Indies are improving and are desperate for a win to remain in contention for the finals.

"We've started to play a bit better," their coach, Andy Roberts, said, "but we must get back into a winning mode."

The Sri Lankans are sure to play hard. They are a good

team. They used to be a pushover for everybody, but not any more."

West Indies will decide just before the start whether Richie Richardson, the captain, will be fit to resume. Richardson missed the last-ball defeat by Australia at Sydney on New Year's Day because of a hamstring injury. If he is unfit Courtney Walsh will again lead the Australian first innings at Melbourne.

Chandika Hathurusinghe is standing by to replace Ranatunga, while Eric Osarane is the likely replacement for Wickremasinghe.

ZEDONK (a) The offspring of a male zebra and a female donkey. The offspring of the converse parentage is a zonkey. A portmanteau word from *zebra* + *donkey*. Donkeys crossed with zebras, sometimes called zedonks, have been used like mules as pack animals.

SPOOKIST (a) A spiritualist or medium. A whimsical formation from *spook* a ghost. "A man whom I knew well was taken suddenly and seriously ill, and his relations, who were enthusiastic spookists, telegraphed for the celebrated clairvoyante Mrs Endor."

SUCUPIRA (a) A dark brown hardwood obtained from trees of the genus *Bowdichia* or *Dipterops*, both native to South America, especially Brazil, and belonging to the family Leguminosae. A Portuguese adaptation of its Tupi name. "The colloquial *Caca*, para nuts and sucupira with their blue flowers high in the sun."

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Local knowledge of a pleasingly arcane kind

The scene is Clifton Suspension Bridge. A stocky, middle-aged man in fluorescent cycling gear crouches excitedly on the footpath, demonstrating a 19th-century patent tea-urn while cars swish past behind. One's heart swells with borrowed pride. This could only be England! Is it raining, too? The urn is a fantastically useful device, combining tea-making, toast-warming, and egg-boiling. Extraordinary that it never caught on, really. But why this larky site for its revival? Well, the woman who invented this tea-urn — Sarah Guppy — also invented the suspension bridge, patenting it in 1811. At this date Isambard Kingdom Brunel was a mere infant who couldn't tell his girders from his joists.

There is never a shortage of cycling boffins in this country, so we no idea whether Adam Hart-Davis is already a big star who also plays the kazoo. But he was

excellent value in *Local Heroes* last night on BBC2. The idea of the series — which is too vaguely titled — is that each week, Hart-Davis cycles into a region and uncovers the forgotten genius of its home-grown inventors and scientific pioneers. Last night the South West provided Humphrey (It's a Gas) Davy and Edward (This Won't Hurt a Bit) Jenner, but also the less-remembered William Watts, a plumber born in 1750 who invented a method for creating steam.

Game for anything (of course), Hart-Davis replicated Watts's original experiment, pouring molten lead from a great height and hoping it would turn into solid spherical droplets in the course of its descent. Still clad in zomboid tones, "The headmaster" is an enriching sort of programme, especially for connoisseurs of arcane information. Watch *Local Heroes* and, if nothing else, you will be armed with excellent gambits for dinner-parties such as "I bet you don't know how lead is manufactured?"

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Such child-like excitement in a clever man on a bike was in stark contrast to the dull, phlegmatic children in two new dramas yesterday. In the spooky new children's serial *The Demon Headmaster* (BBC1), the children are subjected to mass hypnosis — a rather brilliant paranoid conceit

cherry-picker along with a handy portable lead-boiler and an old frying-pan with a hole in it.

Better television it would be hard to find, in my opinion. Hart-Davis poured the lead into the frying-pan and called out "Clear below!" — a lovely touch. And then the lead came down in rain-drops. *Local Heroes* is an enriching sort of programme, especially for connoisseurs of arcane information. Watch *Local Heroes* and, if nothing else, you will be armed with excellent gambits for dinner-parties such as "I bet you don't know how lead is manufactured?"

never smell the proverbial rodent, even when the children iron their own socks. But five plucky "normals" have mysteriously escaped the headmaster's net, and a new girl, Dinah, may join them. On her first day she was hypnotised at once, but she is an intelligent child and is therefore alarmed at the sound of unexpected opinions issuing from her own mouth. What is the headmaster's cunning plan, however? If he only intends to plant French verbs in his pupils' sub-conscious, I say good luck.

But around the school may be seen Orwell-type posters. "Forge a single will out of the will of many," for example. So there is probably more to it than learning the kings and queens of England by rote. Whenever the headmaster (Terence Hardiman) removes his tinted spectacles, his eyes emit concentric pulses, rather like the snake in Disney's *Jungle Book*. "Funny you should feel so tired so

early in the morning," he says. Such a gift may also be a curse, of course. Imagine his visits to the optician's, if every time he removes his specs people fall back glassy with their gobs open.

Finally, the dear siblings from *Next of Kin* (BBC1) returned last night for a second series. Unmotherly Maggie (Penelope Keith) and easy-going husband Andrew (William Gaunt) have now adopted their joyless grandchildren. Maggie does not like young people, in particular she dislikes the swashbuckler Georgia (Ann Gossling), who last night received a trifle in the face — in the manner of a custard pie. Such violence was a surprise only to those who had missed the trailers, in which the incident featured heavily.

Last night's lame story concerned two plot-lines, both of

which were so predictable I nearly burst into tears. First, Maggie saw in Georgia's private diary "It was my birthday today and nobody remembered". While granny then struggled to make an acceptably holistic birthday tea, the viewer had ample time not only to reach the conclusion "It's probably a trick", but to amble around it enough times to get sick of the sight of it. Similarly the smaller child's requirement of a locust outfit ("Jake has to be a locust by Thursday") culminated in a real knock-em-dead narrative twist when it transpired that the locust outfit was required *for* Thursday.

Next of Kin is a Penelope Keith vehicle whose epithet "popular" is so mysterious that it can only be attributable to sister mass hypnosis. So if you hear anyone say, "Penelope Keith is marvellous, and *Next of Kin* is the best sitcom I've ever seen," back away slowly and then make a run for it.

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

on the part of Gillian Cross, the story's original author (it is adapted by Helen Cresswell). These pupils parade noiselessly in smart green blazers, and when asked "How's school?" they reply in zomboid tones. "The headmaster is a marvellous man, and this is the best school I've ever been to."

What a cracking idea. Why aren't all schools run in this fashion? Apparently the parents

of the school may be seen Orwell-type posters. "Forge a single will out of the will of many," for example. So there is probably more to it than learning the kings and queens of England by rote. Whenever the headmaster (Terence Hardiman) removes his tinted spectacles, his eyes emit concentric pulses, rather like the snake in Disney's *Jungle Book*. "Funny you should feel so tired so

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CHANNEL 4

6.35am *Think Tank* with Mickey Hutton (t) (s) (5340845)

7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (651154)

9.00 *The Golden Girls* (t) (Teletext) (s) (49715)

9.30 *Stand Still, Be Fit* (t) (Teletext) (s) (3854932)

9.45 *The Daily Telegraph Junior Golfer of the Year* from the Cloister course in Georgia (6307116)

10.50 *FILM: Danie's Inferno* (1985, b/w) Adaptation of the famous verses, starring Spencer Tracy as a background worker who finds himself in Hell. Directed by Harry Lachman (53329154)

12.30pm *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

1.25 *Home and Away* (Teletext) (6034574)

1.25 *Chain Letters* (Teletext) (32493319)

1.55 *Shortland Street* (Teletext) (64756319)

2.20 *Vanessa* (Teletext) (s) (19469067)

2.50 *Material World: Heart and Soul* (4965693)

3.20 *ITN News Headlines* (Teletext) (2649067)

3.26 *London Today* (Teletext) (6247338)

3.30 *Polamz Park* (s) (246125) 3.40 *Wizards of the Cat* (1420796) 4.30 *Terror Towers* (5850241)

4.40 **NEW** *Delta Waves: A Twist of Lemming*, with Cambridge researcher Dr Ruby Munro (Teletext) (s) (7183293)

5.10 **After 5 with Carol Keating** (Teletext) (Followed by the Missing File) (6526048)

5.40 *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (684226)

5.55 **You Shout** Viewers air their views (s) (943651)

6.00pm *Home and Away* (t) (Teletext) (77)

6.30 *London Tonight* (Teletext) (57)

7.00 **CHOICE** *Back to the Present* (5390)

7.30 *Coronation Street*. Don pays a visit to his solicitor (Teletext) (41)

8.00 *Des O'Connor Tonight* with José Carreras, Brian Conley and Wei Wei (t) (s) (3390)

9.00 **FILM: Final Analysis** (1992) starring Richard Gere, Kim Basinger, Linda Thoren and Eric Roberts. A psychiatrist's clandestine affair with the sister of a client becomes complicated when she appears in court charged with murder. Directed by Phil Joanou (t) (2154) *Continues after the news*

10.00 *ITN News at Ten and Weather* (Teletext) (38338)

10.30 *London Tonight* (Teletext)

10.40 *FILM: Final Analysis* (continued) (392357)

12.00 *Tales From the Crypt: Season* (45094)

12.30 **NEW** *God's Gift* "Raunchy" dancing show with Davina McCall (55520)

1.30 **NEW** Dear Nick! Nick Fisher discusses one-night stands (1015)

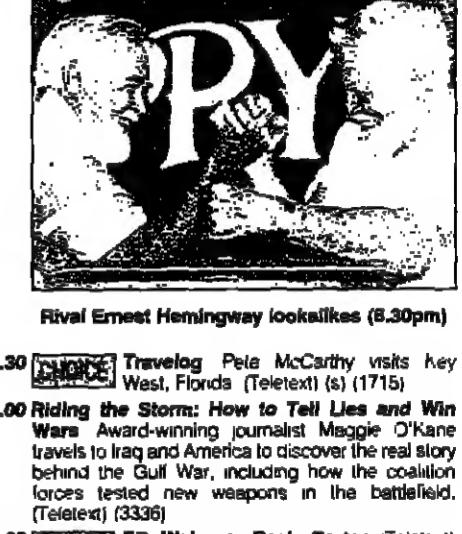
2.30pm **FILM: Wall of Death** (1950, b/w). Thriller starring Michael Reed, Susan Shaw, Laurence Harvey, Dora Bryan and Sidney Tafler. Directed by Lewis Gilbert (415459)

4.05 **NEW** *Jones and Jury* Real legal disputes (16282075)

4.30 *Dead Men's Tales* (26526278)

4.55 *The Time... The Place* (t) (s) (1949691)

5.30 *ITN Morning News* (46723) Ends at 6.00



Rival Ernest Hemingway looks like (8.30pm)

6.30 **ER: Welcome Back, Carter** (Teletext) (s) (1715)

9.00 *Riding the Storm: How to Tell Lies and Win Wars* Award-winning journalist Maggie (Maggie) Kane travels to Iraq and America to discover the real story behind the Gulf War, including how the coalition forces tested new weapons in the battlefield. (Teletext) (3336)

10.00 **ER: Welcome Back, Carter** (Teletext) (s) (33408)

10.55 **FRIENDS** The comedy pilot that introduced six single twentysomethings, all at various stages in the dating game and the career race, who share each other's apartments, problems, time and clothes (t) (Teletext) (s) (312135)

11.25 **Movielwatch** Film magazine series. Johnny Vaughan interviews Julia Roberts about her new film, *Something To Talk About* (s) (286357)

12.05pm **Real Money** A drama set in both the real and fictional world of boxing. Real because the parts are played by fighters and the boring fraternity who appeared in *Fighters*, fiction because this is a drama that follows the lives of young boxers Bobby Kane (Mark Tibbs) and Terry (Steve Roberts) as they train under the discipline of Roy Kane (real life trainer Jimmy Tibbs) (Teletext) (s) (251568)

1.30pm **FILM: The Boy from Oklahoma** (1954) Will Rogers Jr stars as a gentle shanty who discovers that the mayor (Lon Chaney Jr) is a secret killer. Directed by Michael Curtiz (370617)

3.05 **FILM: Die Rebellion** A disabled soldier plays a barrel-organ in the streets for a living but has to face the true nature of his final judgment. An Australian drama with Branko Samokovski and Thierry Van Werke in German with subtitles, (458638), Ends at 5.05

CARLTON

6.00am *GMTV* (2260680)

9.25 *Win, Lose or Draw* (s) (4713574)

9.55 *London Today* (Teletext) (6569116)

10.00 *The Time... The Place* (s) (1480512)

10.35 *This Morning* including 11.00 *ITN News Headlines* and regional news (57601222)

12.20pm *London Today* followed by *London Weather* (Teletext) (6745681)

12.30pm *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

1.25 *Home and Away* (Teletext) (6034574)

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3.26 *London Tonight* (Teletext) (6247338)

3.30 *Polamz Park* (s) (246125) 3.40 *The Twisted Tales* (1420796)

4.30 *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

4.45pm *Carlton* (s) (4180680)

5.00pm *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

5.30pm *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

6.00pm *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

6.30pm *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

7.00pm *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

7.30pm *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

7.45pm *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

8.00pm *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

8.30pm *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

8.45pm *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

9.00pm *ITN News and Weather* (Teletext) (6059883)

